Daily Report

Latin America

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Rio Group Foreign Ministers Meet in Caracas

Interregional Oil Plan Considered

PA2901002491 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1533 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Caracas, 28 Jan (DPA)—The Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) suggested today that the oil exporting countries in Latin America and the Caribbean grant sales privileges to their consumers in the region and create a common fund for financing this exchange.

In a document presented at the meeting of the Rio Group's foreign ministers, the OLADE suggested the creation of a special bank to facilitate the regional countries' fuel purchases. The Rio Group initiated talks today in Caracas on the economic consequences the Persian Gulf war will have on the region.

The meeting, convoked by Venezuela as the Rio Group's temporary secretary, will be devoted to debating aspects of energy security against a background of oil price fluctuations following the outbreak of war. The OLADE document was presented by its executive secretary, Colombian Gabriel Sanchez Sierra.

According to the OLADE, conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean are adequate for guaranteeing energy security if it is taken into account that they produce 6.5 million barrels but consume only 4.4 million barrels.

Nevertheless, the major part of their exports go to markets outside the region, and the importers' purchases are made primarily in the Middle East.

Brazil and Uruguay particularly are in a compromising situation, OLADE says, because they respectively purchase 72 and 48 percent of their crude in the Arab region.

Meanwhile, the five leading oil producers in the region—Venezuela, Mexico, Ecuador, Trinidad-Tobago, and Colombia—earn an additional $118 million with every dollar that the price per barrel increases.

Thus the current crisis in the Persian Gulf could seriously affect the region's economic situation, especially if there is an oil shortage and an increase in prices.

Over an "appreciable period" a balance could be achieved between supply and demand, thanks especially to the more than 4 billion barrels of crude contained in the industrialized countries' strategic reserves.

These reserves began to be released at a rate of 2 million barrels daily by the International Agency for Energy (AIE).

According to the OLADE, however, low oil prices could discourage investment in oil explorations.

In the meantime, the region will see an increase in prices with an additional inflation rate of four to nine percent and a decline in its commercial surplus.

In order to increase the region's energy security beyond the international sphere, the OLADE proposes an increase in the sale of oil within the region, which is currently affected by [words indistinct].

The OLADE also suggests softening the negative effects of price fluctuations and improving the use of infrastructure for the prodution and transportation of fuel.

The cooperation plan proposed by the OLADE suggests that producers be paid international prices, and that they in turn grant sale privileges to the countries in the region.

At present 75 percent of the oil exports are to the United States, 15 percent to Europe, and the rest to other regions.

A special oil fund should consider new sources of financing with contributions from the countries that wish to participate in the system. By ensuring energy sources, these countries could also reduce their storage costs, optimize their refineries' capacity, and efficiently use oil by-products.

USSR Urges Pressure on Iraq

PA2801180591 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1555 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Caracas, 28 Jan (DPA)—In a message delivered to the Rio Group foreign ministers in Caracas today, the Soviet Union has stated that Latin America should authoritatively pressure Iraq to leave Kuwait so that the war in the Persian Gulf can be brought to an end.

According to the note, signed by new Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, Latin America should play a more active role in finding a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis.

The message, a copy of which has reached DPA, states that the Soviet Union has from the beginning condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait because the Soviet Union considers the invasion a gross violation of international law.

Although the Soviet Union has made every possible effort to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict, "Iraq's stubbornness has led to the current tragic situation."

The message added that, now that war has broken out, it is necessary to prevent it from expanding and worsening.

The most pressing need is for the armed action to stop so that a political compromise can be sought. Nevertheless, it is impossible to reach this objective without the Iraqi Government's clear willingness to leave Kuwait. "We believe that Latin America's leadership can carry considerable weight in this direction."

The Soviet Union, the note concluded, underlines its willingness to carry out joint actions with Latin America which could contribute to expanding cooperation and establishing a new world order.

UN Resolutions Supported

PA2901051091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0209 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] San Jose, 28 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Rio Group gave its wide support to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in the search for a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus announced today.

The group, which held a special ministerial meeting in Caracas today, also approved a decision to support the security council resolutions which call for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the foreign minister said in a telephone conversation from Venezuela.

"The Rio Group also expressed its concern over the possibility that the conflict could extend to Israel because of the attacks that are being launched against that country by Iraq," Niehaus said.

The Rio Group called for the fulfillment of the Geneva Agreements on the treatment of prisoners of war as well as on the use of chemical and biological weapons.

In addition, the foreign ministers who were meeting in Caracas expressed their concern over the environmental damage that is being caused.

Niehaus described as an "innovation" the decision to call for a revision of the world security system when the war ends, the need to hold consultations on the Middle East problem, and the need to follow up on the crisis.

"They agreed to study the formulas, whatever they may be, for a new peace order based on the fulfillment of all the UN resolutions," Niehaus said.

The foreign ministers further agreed on the need to seek solutions to the Security Council resolutions, which at times have not been complied with.

The Rio Group also agreed to support the peace efforts made by Javier Perez de Cuellar in El Salvador as well as to ask both sides, and the foreign minister himself, to intensify the efforts in the search for a solution to the conflict.

In energy matters, the ministers decided to "design and strengthen mechanisms that can promote the economic security of the continent."

The Costa Rican foreign minister said the ministers studied the need to deal with the problems of the supply and price of fuels according to the proposals made by Venezuela and Mexico.

Special recognition was made to the San Jose and Tuxtla Gutierrez Agreements by means of which Mexico and Venezuela will supply 130,000 barrels of oil per day to Central America and the Caribbean under beneficial terms.

The foreign ministers asked, according to the San Jose Agreement, to adopt finance mechanisms that can help soften the impact of the variation in oil prices adversely affecting non-oil producing countries.

Niehaus said the oil supply offer was an "extremely important" example of continental solidarity.

According to Niehaus, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said that "solidarity with Latin America in the energy field is very important; it emphasizes the clear commitment of the Latin American countries and governments to be united for the future."

According to the foreign minister, the Persian Gulf crisis has helped Latin America become aware of the importance of joint efforts in the search for solutions to their problems." [no opening quotation marks as received]

The foreign minister explained that in the Caracas meeting "a specific proposal on the Middle East war was not being sought, but it was a proposal for joint coordination and action in the future in case problems emerge, especially in the economic field."

The Rio Group foreign ministers do not intend to find a solution to the Persian Gulf crisis, but they want to follow up on the crisis so as to envision the consequences that could affect Latin American economies.

Niehaus said, however, that the Rio Group "specifically said that all UN Security Council resolutions should be fulfilled."

Once the conflict is over, it is necessary to find solutions to all the problems that have been reviewed by the United Nations, with an emphasis on the Middle East problems, Niehaus said.

Group Set Up To Handle Salvadoran Peace Effort

PA2901015691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2105 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Report by Yazmin Ross]

[Text] San Jose, 27 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The United Nations has reduced its Blue Helmets detachment in Central America to a minimum in order to find ways to bring peace to El Salvador, sources close to the organization told NOTIMEX today. With the conclusion of the Nicaraguan contra disbandment process, and in view of a prolongation of the war in El Salvador, the Blue Helmets are only conducting patrolling missions on Nicaragua's border with Honduras and Costa Rica, official UN sources said. UN Observer Group for Central America (ONUCA) forces were reduced from 460 to 200, and the United Nations is organizing a single mission for El Salvador. The new organization called ONUSAL, United Nations Observers for El Salvador [Observadores de Naciones Unidas para El Salvador], will be tasked with verifying respect for human rights, the electoral process, and the end of hostilities in El

Salvador the moment a cease-fire between the government and the guerrillas begins.

When asked by NOTIMEX, top ONUCA officials said the troop reduction is based on the needs of the region, following the disbandment of the Nicaraguan contra. The majority of the Blue Helmets withdrawn from the area patrolled Nicaragua's northern and southern borders as well as the security zones installed in Nicaraguan territory to shelter demobilized former contras. The United Nations also withdrew the helicopters that provided logistical support to the military observers. So as not to leave the area unprotected, the Canadian Government provided 12 helicopters to continue the supervision duties until 7 May 1991, the date the ONUCA mandate expires.

Spanish General Agustin Quezada was relieved as chief of ONUCA and replaced by Canadian Brigadier General Lewis McKenzie who is to arrive in San Jose tomorrow on a tour of the five Central American countries. The governments that signed the Esquipulas II agreements and the new military chiefs expressed dissatisfaction with ONUCA's ability to oversee the movements of weapons in the region, according to queried sources.

The mission entrusted to ONUCA—according to the UN Security Council mandate—is to end assistance to rebel groups operating in the region and ensuring that no territory is used to attack the other states.

"The Honduran Army, however, does not take the Blue Helmets into consideration and does not pass on information about gunrunning operations detected in its territory" that are basically aimed at supplying the Salvadoran guerrillas, a diplomat stated.

ONUCA is also unable to conduct patrol missions on the Salvadoran border with Honduras and Nicaragua as long as the hostilities continue.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts are now directed at organizing a "single verification organization" for El Salvador which will be enacted once the cease-fire agreement between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has been reached.

Heading ONUSAL will be Ikvar Riza, a Pakistani civilian, sources from the United Nations said. The sources added that the goal of the new organization will be to prevent a duplication of efforts.

The establishment of ONUSAL is being done in Tegucigalpa, while UN Secretary General representative Alvaro de Soto is continuing his mediation to achieve a peaceful solution to the 11-year old war in El Salvador.

Cuba

Raul Castro Proclaims Support for Arab People

PA2801151191 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, has said in Havana that the world is facing the first unipolar war in the Persian Gulf. He added that the Cuban Army's primary duty is to defend and protect the Arab people who are facing the biggest challenge in history.

Castro spoke at the closing of the eighth conference on the Communist Party in the Western Army. During this conference critical examinations were made of the party's role in defense preparations, the food program, and means to save and control resources, among other issues.

Gen. Castro pointed out the efforts that Cuba is making to successfully confront the effects of the special period during times of peace. He also pointed out the roles played in this important task by party members and the general public.

Fidel Castro Views Low Child Mortality Rate

FL2901041591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 29 GMT 91

[Hedy Gonzalez Cabrera report]

[Text] I have just arrived from the building located on the corner of 23d and 28th Streets in the (?Vedado) district. The building was inaugurated this afternoon by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Let us listen to excerpts of his speech.

[Begin Castro recording] Wherever I go, there is always a microphone around. Most of the time I generally make unscheduled and unannounced visits to farms, job sites, and camps. This gives them no time to install any microphones. But it is during these occasions that I engage in chats with workers, scientists, students, and peasants.

Well, I know that on these occasions one is supposed to make a statement. I was amused when Victor [not further identified] explained that sometimes people do not know how to start a speech. I was just thinking that many times people do not know how to end a speech. [laughs]

Victor was an exemplary speaker because he delivered a brief speech, and those who make short statements are much more appreciated. [words indistinct] [crowd shouts: no, laughs, applause]

This is why I am going to speak very briefly here today. [end recording]

I must add that the work that our commander in chief inaugurated this afternoon is particularly important because it was built by microbrigade members and by the Habana University Law School students. They doubled their efforts after a commitment they made to Fidel during his recent visit to the pharmacology school.

Because our commander in chief is deeply interested in health, this subject could not be overlooked in his speech. Let us listen to what he said.

[Begin Castro recording] The low child mortality rate places Cuba among the first in the world. Some day we will rank in 10th place, and in the future we will rate even better than that. We will see. This is an area in which we are really fairing very well. There are some countries that are [words indistinct]. There are few births in those countries.

Perhaps they lack some of the problems Cuba has like women bearing children at a very young age [words indistinct]. As you know, the child mortality rate is affected by these risk cases. The rate of mothers who give birth at an age at which their bodies have not yet reached their full physical development is still very high.

All these factors have an effect on the birth mortality rate. The climate is also another factor that also has an effect on the birth mortality rate. Cuba has a warmer climate. It has a humid climate. Such a climate is unfavorable to our health. Cuba is an island and respiratory illnesses, in particular asthma, are characteristic of all islands.

All these factors have an effect on the child mortality rate. There is no tropical country in the world that has been able to decrease the child mortality rate to the levels that Cuba has achieved.

I believe that the tropical climate in Cuban (?cities) is unfavorable. Perhaps (?they) have a more dry, more moderate climate. [Words indistinct] 99 out of 100 have survived the first year. Even mathematically, this is a very difficult thing to achieve. [Words indistinct] undoubtedly, what I have just mentioned constitutes a true feat.

I am sure we will continue to achieve similar deeds because we have many other things working for us. We have pediatric cardiovascular surgery. This saves numerous children who previously had no chance to survive because of congenital malformations. Today the majority of these children survive due to cardiovascular surgery. We also are able to diagnose congenital diseases. This allows the mother to interrupt her pregnancy if she so wishes. We also are able to grant perinatal intensive care treatment—that is, intensive care treatment during the first days of life—which is when most children's death occurs. We have also been able to develop perinatal intensive care treatment. [end recording]

Castro Sends Wreath To Mark Jose Marti's Birth

FL2801234591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2038 28 Jan 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a flower wreath on the occasion of the 138th anniversary of the birth of Jose Marti whose remains are buried at the Santa Efigenia cemetery in Santiago de Cuba Province.

Juan Esteban Lazo, first secretary of Santiago de Cuba Province, several political and government leaders, and representatives from the Soviet Consulate in Santiago de Cuba placed the wreath before the mausoleum built in Jose Marti's honor.

Since early morning hundreds of young Pioneers, workers, and members of the grandparents circles marched through Santiago de Cuba streets and visited the cemetery to honor the Cuban hero.

Fidel Castro Inspects Guira de Melena Farm Area

FL2801220091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2036 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has again inspected areas of the miscellaneous crops enterprise located in the Guira de Melena municipal district in Havana Province.

The objective of the visit paid by the leader of the revolution was to obtain first-hand information on the voluntary work that had been proposed by this Havana municipal district in view of the provincial party assembly.

Fidel was informed that over 900 comrades have been mobilized to help in several agricultural sectors and to carry out other important activities aimed at promoting the development of the food program.

The commander in chief also toured the Mamey and Jocuma camps. These camps shelter mobilized personnel from Havana's San Miguel del Padron municipal district. He expressed interest in the work carried out by these people and how they are treated.

Escalona Meets With Visiting Soviet Delegation

FL2901042591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Juan Escalona Reguera, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], held in Havana today a meeting with Soviet deputies. The Soviet officials are visiting Cuba in response to an invitation extended by the Education Ministry.

During the meeting, Escalona discussed issues pertaining to the ANPP operation and organization. He also informed the visitors about Cuban history.

(Nikolay Parvichev), a Supreme Soviet deputy and chairman of the education and family sub-commission, said that Soviet citizens think fondly about the Cuban state because they have followed with great attention events in Cuba.

The Soviet delegation arrived in Cuba on 27 January. During their stay, the foreign visitors will tour Cuban educational centers.

Sancti Spiritus Holds Provincial Party Meeting

FL2601200091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Sancti Spiritus is holding its provincial party assembly. The implementation of the food program is among the many important issues of regional interest that the Provincial Assessment Assembly is scheduled to review.

The Sancti Spiritus Provincial Assessment Assembly is being held at the local medicine school lecture theater. Present in this assessment meeting are 211 delegates who were elected at the municipal level and whose average age is 40.

A third of these delegates are workers and over half of them come from the production, teaching, and goods and services sectors. These delegates are representative of the provincial party militancy and of the most important provincial socieconomic sectors.

Speeches delivered during the morning centered on the most significant issues included in the main report. Among them is the importance of the food program and the plan drafted by the Sancti Spiritus province to face the especial period.

Some speakers have commented on experiences which seek to continue with our development program in case of any future eventualities. Other speakers have mentioned that the many proposals made by the people in response to the call of the fourth party congress have been answered and resolved in Sancti Spiritus.

CMHT-Radio Sancti Spiritus is carryig full reports on this assembly through a direct link from the medicine school theater.

This assembly is headed by Politburo members Jose Ramon Machado and Jorge Risquet Valdes. Also present are alternate Politburo members Julian Rizo Alvarez and Jorge Valdes Rodriguez, member of the Sancti Spiritus executive bureau and first secretary of the Sancti Spiritus province.

Court Passes Sentences for Automobile Thefts

FL2601024091 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Maribel Puerto report]

[Text] Whenever I cover a trial for this newscast, I always do it looking for a lesson which could alert many people who may be involved in a crime, whether because

they are not aware of our laws or because, although they may be fully aware that something is illegal, they tell themselves they may do it and never be caught. In this way they fall into a big trap which almost always ends before a penal tribunal.

This is why I report on a trial with 20 defendants, their respective defense attorneys, 12 witnesses, and a prosecutor who filed several criminal charges such as repeated breaking and entering. In this case, six automobiles of the following makes were involved: Lada, Moscovich, and VW. Charges also included forgery of private documents, illegal possession and carrying of a firearm, and receipt of stolen property—that is, the purchase of an automobile or something else without exchanging any legal document.

People who had their cars stolen appeared in this trial as prosecution witnesses. Most of the vehicles were private vehicles. These people explained that once they had recovered their cars, they noticed that changes had been made to the color and to license plates; in some cases their cars had a different engine. Citizens who had been accused of receiving the property were also heard here. They admitted having purchased a modern automobile without the state's involvement.

This is why I believe it is appropriate to remind the population that no citizen who has purchased an automobile through the Cuban state is authorized to sell it to private citizens. In the contract signed between Autoimport and the buyer, it is explained that Autoimport reserves the right to purchase the vehicle in the event its owner decides to sell it. The contract also explains that the transfer of ownership can only be done when the owner of the vehicles dies. It is important to reiterate that it is also illegal for any Cuban citizen to buy an automobile from foreigners residing in the country. The sale of the HK [expansion not known] is only possible among foreigners or to the state.

Going back to the trial, sentences were read at the tribunal after over 10 hours of sessions. Ten years of imprisonment were ordered to four people accused of repeated breaking and entering, and eight and four years for others involved in the same crime. Five defendants were sentenced to between two years and six months of imprisonment for receiving stolen property. Five other people were ordered to also pay fines of up to 1,500 pesos for receiving stolen property. One citizen was sentenced for two crimes, illegal possession of a firearm and receipt of stolen property; the tribunal sentenced him to two years imprisonment. The tribunal ordered one person to pay 200 one-peso quotas for being an accomplice.

The tribunal acquitted two defendants charged with receiving stolen property because their participation in the crime was not proven. It was also stated that because of the nature of the breaking and entering crime, and the threat it poses to society, the citizens sentenced for this crime will be in temporary custody until the sentence is ratified in the event that anyone of them files an appeal.

Sugar Ministry Signs Trade Agreement With Iran

FL2801131591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] On the occasion of holding the second Cuban-Iranian Intergovernmental Joint Commission, a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Cuban Ministry of the Sugar Industry and the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture. Prior to the signing of the document, Sugar Minister Juan Herrera provided the delegation headed by Iranian Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari with an explanation concerning our primary industry. He stated that currently we are working to obtain high cane yields, and that chemistry and biotechnology are being introduced into the manufacture of unrefined sugar.

The memorandum was signed by Vice Ministers Raul Curbelo and (Hasan Kabatabai). The two ministries have agreed on cooperation in the design and selection of appropriate technology for sugar mills, establishment of industries for sugarcane derivatives, animal feed plants, and research centers for sugarcane agriculture and industry. In addition, the agreement covers training for the staff that will work at these centers.

* Decentralization in Agriculture Discussed

91CA0055A Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 14 Dec 90 pp 5-10

[Report by Alberto Pozo, Lisanka, Caridad Carrobello, and Ariel Terrero—first two paragraphs are BOHEMIA introduction]

[Text] An in-depth view between fields and offices, an extensive trip from east to west. A team of BOHEMIA reporters toured state-run enterprises, cooperatives, and provincial delegations, surveyed technicians and directors, and tried at all costs to get to the root of the problem that has beset agriculture: excessive centralization, too much bureaucracy?

The following are the opinions, the controversial, cautious opinions, of specialists, directors, delegates. Thirty-five centers were visited in eight provinces.

The threat of punishment is hanging over Alfredo Ramos' head. The miscellaneous-crops enterprise that he directs in Jovellanos, Matanzas violated several rules of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security (CETSS). After a bitter discussion, the committee delegate in the province told him that he was going to report him. Eight months later, Alfredo has not been reprimanded. "We plan to do the same thing next year," he says.

The V.I. Lenin miscellaneous-crops enterprise took the risk of using its own pay and work-organization methods during the past potato harvest. Pressured by a shortage

of manpower and needing to salvage the high yields that the fields were promising, the board of directors decided as a group to do away with obsolete, traditional methods that neither promoted productivity nor guaranteed decent wages for farm workers.

With flag-raising ceremonies and all, they organized 160 workers, both permanent and part-time, in two battalions and instead of regulating production by work time, they paid them on the basis of their performance. One of the rates was 30 cents per sack of potatoes; the rates varied, however, depending on conditions and yield. They all worked as hard as they could and were paid for what they harvested. Some women filled as many as 130 sacks a day.

Alfredo and his people know that pay systems not authorized by the CETSS are prohibited, but they decided to take the risk. They say that their minds are at ease. "We have neither stolen nor wasted money, nor do I care whether they fire me," the director says.

When all is said and done, they merely rebelled against some of the weaknesses that are weighing down Cuban agriculture. "The potatoes used to lie exposed to the sun in the furrows for up to three days, waiting to be harvested," says Gerardo Miranda, the assistant director of economics at the enterprise. "And this is disastrous because they spoil."

What have they done with the sweet potatoes, the potatoes, the onions, the tomatoes, and the cabbage? Why after 30 years has agriculture been unable to fully meet the demands of Cuban consumers? Bad weather and the curse of pests and diseases have often been blamed. Yet although the fickle tyranny of nature is (and will be) an inexorable fact (just look at the white fly that devastated the tomato crop and others this year), the main cause of our agricultural failures seems to lie elsewhere: with man.

Stories like Jovellanos lay bare the excessive bureaucracies that have led to a true manpower crisis in agriculture. The crisis was brought up and harped on many times; it was even analyzed in 1987 when the Agriculture Ministry (MINAGRI) reported to the National People's Assembly. But only now is it is being tackled seriously.

"Our enterprises were not able to make themselves heard, to channel this problem properly towards the upper levels," explains Florentino Lemus, the director of the miscellaneous-crops enterprise of Guira de Melena in Havana.

"Couldn't one also conclude that the upper levels did not grasp the magnitude of the problem either?"

"Well, that would be another interpretation," Lemus replied cautiously.

By way of an extensive tour of enterprises, cooperatives, and Agriculture Ministry delegations in more than half of the country's provinces, BOHEMIA confirmed something that it has been harping on: Low wages are the major reason for the exodus of farm workers to other jobs. The wage hikes introduced in recent years have had some impact but still neither compensate for the rigors of this work nor meet the needs of farm workers, who earn between 120 and 142 pesos a month.

The established payment and quota systems have not inspired the workers either. Juan Marrero from Pinar del Rio, who works at the municipal agricultural enterprise (EMA) of Minas de Matahambre, thinks that paying by the workday instead of by output "causes the men to hide their productive reserves."

Speaking from a privileged position (the cooperatives are not affected by these difficulties), Agustin Garcia Camacho, the president of the 13 de marzo CPA [Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative] in Cabalguin, Sancti Spiritus, feels that quotas by unit are more appropriate "based on whatever you get out of the field."

"The state-run enterprises," he says, "tend to review and up the quota every time a worker exceeds it. As a result, he always earns the same even if he works harder. I think that we ought to let people earn a few pesos more if they do so honestly. If the workers do not have incentives, it is not easy to boost productivity. No one is taking into account what it means to work on all fours in the fields, under the hot sun, day after day. I am not denying the importance of working out of a sense of duty, but everybody has their needs, and there are quotas and concepts that are set from behind a desk and that are as far removed from reality as Cabalguan is from Camaguey."

Directors Want To Pay

The heavy rains that took the eastern provinces by surprise in October and November have necessitated a change in the planting and care program for many crops. The support forces that Arturo Arauz of Holguin has available are not enough to perform even half of the tasks arising from the emergency on his farm. He needs to hire extra personnel but must wait for authorization. "If I wait, four or five days go by, and more weeds grow in my fields."

Like others surveyed, Arturo feels that the problem of low wages is made worse by a sort of rigidity or excessive centralization that restricts the potential for acting more aggressively and efficiently.

Wage policy in the country must be centralized, other respondents said. "Otherwise, there will be anarchy and war among agencies in attracting manpower," says Maximo Macias, the director of the Maximo Gomez miscellaneous-crops enterprise. Yet many are also calling for the application of the policy to be decentralized at the enterprise level.

Reicedo Rodriguez, a peasant farmer who became a MINAGRI delegate in Guantanamo, has given a great deal of thought to the repercussions of this issue in the highland regions.

"Look, yesterday I was in a tuber plot where there was an old man whose cultural level is low but who has everything in very good shape. He fulfills his production quota, is resourceful, and manages expenses in his own way but with efficiency and discipline. Yet his wages are lower than others who do not perform as well because they have a higher standing. That man ought to be paid more, but the enterprise cannot go above the established standard."

Angel Araujo, the director of the Baracoa EMA, is categorical. After summarizing all that he has gone through to modify coconut-harvest quotas when they are unrealistic ("The province takes up to a month to respond to our proposals"), he says conclusively: "As for what an enterprise can and cannot do, I think that above all it has to guarantee output. But if it has a wage fund, why isn't it given the authority to use it as it sees fit? That many people should not be watching over it! If the enterprise is responsible for the fund, let it manage it. If something goes wrong, hold it accountable."

...And There Was Light

Nelson Paz is overjoyed. His agronomist's intuition tells him that the microjet irrigation system that the La Cuba enterprise in Ciego de Avila Province has installed is a marvel; he serves as a MINAGRI delegate in that province. He is not the only enthusiastic one. Yet the new methods of work organization and the wages set in the banana fields irrigated by this much touted new system seem to have had more impact than even the technology.

"Higher wages alone will not solve our agricultural predicament," says Nelson. "The men have to be motivated more about output, about crop yield. MINAGRI is working on the organizational problems and, above all, on pay consistent with final results."

Each banana brigade with microjet irrigation is associated with a given area from the time that the land is prepared and sowed until the final harvest. Yields will depend on the efficiency with which the crop is handled from the very beginning, and the men will be paid in direct relation to what they are able to get from the land. A production worker can earn more than 400 pesos a month, deducted from the net profits and the advance that is paid out each month during the first two years of the banana plantation.

The hopes placed in the philosophy behind this experience, studies that the ministry is conducting to extend it to the other crops, and other experiments conducted in work organization and wages (dividing the enterprises into farms and ranches, for example) are lifting spirits in the fields. Another heartening factor that BOHEMIA observed is the development of a strategy for attending to people's needs, which includes housing construction and the expansion of consumption by producer, among other measures.

Who Is in Control?

A cloud hangs over the Los Palacios miscellaneous-crops enterprise in Pinar del Rio: it is not going to meet its banana production quota. Its director, Jorge Luis Pupo, has known this for months, perhaps longer.

"Last year," he says, "we explained to the provincial delegation that in 1990 we were able to produce only 75,000 quintals, but they did not accept this and did not lower the quota from 125,000."

The end-of-year reports will indicate that this enterprise put out...75,000 quintals of bananas.

In Pinar del Rio one can sense unhappiness over the lack of flexibility in planning enterprise output. To some there is too much centralization. As in the case of quotas and wages, it prevents the enterprise management from being efficient.

Engineer Manuel Rodriguez asserts that in the same province the Enrique Troncoso citrus fruit enterprise, which he heads, lost several caballerias [one caballeria=33.2 acres] of vegetables and tubers this year because it was subject to quotas that were imposed on it without any consideration being given to its proposals. "We are the ones who have the experience, who know about the pests and diseases, the acidity of our soil. The plans should not be handed down in such rigid form. I do not give the orders; everyone gives orders to me."

Two specialists from the Pinar del Rio delegation of MINAGRI confirm his views. Engineer Rafael Padilla acknowledges that "we are not always confident about handing over control to the enterprises because we feel that they lack information and training." Ubaldo Redomet feels that the delegation imposes production and planting-area figures, thus requiring unnecessary spending. Both think that the enterprise must and can have more autonomy.

The outlook seems to have improved in other provinces. People surveyed in Santiago, Matanzas, Guantanamo, and Sancti Spiritus, among others, vouch for this. Unlike in the past, this year the ministry and the delegations showed more respect for the enterprises' proposals for 1991.

Rodolfo Vigueras looks happier than his colleagues from Pinar del Rio as he comments on this matter.

"At times we were told to plant more than we could take care of," says the director of the Valle del Caonao miscellaneous-crops enterprise in Sancti Spiritus, "and then the weeds grew or we lost harvests for lack of manpower. For 1991 they let us propose the quota ourselves; they did not tell us how much to plant, just the production that we have to hand in, which is more realistic."

We detected a difference of viewpoints in other territories. Holguin enterprise director Gaspar Ramirez says that his proposals for next year were approved by the

delegation without major changes in either volume or variety, whereas Jesus Jimenez, the chief of ranch production at the Gibara seed enterprise, complains that they have been instructed to plant crops that do not grow well in the region's soils.

This thorny, controversial issue of centralizing or decentralizing economic activity gives rise to many comments. By and large, the need to centrally plan production (while always heeding the views of locals) is accepted in order to strike a balance among the interests of the country, the region, and the enterprise. Yet the feeling is that the management of the enterprises needs to be decentralized somewhat in the areas of executing the plan or structuring the work forces. Some directors feel overadvised.

Two MINAGRI provincial delegates, Angel Berrier from Matanzas and Reicedo Rodriguez from Guantanamo, share this opinion to an extent, but agree that there are also many directors who consult on everything and sit down and wait for decisions and instructions from above in order to relieve themselves of responsibility and be able to blame others for their own inefficiency.

The Endless Enigma of Paperwork

A neat stack of papers is lying on the desk of the assistant director of human resources of the Guira de Melena miscellaneous-crops enterprise. Behind it sits Enrique Nunez Beltran.

When we asked him for data on the payroll, he offered us three different versions, all three full of contradictions. Finally he gave up: "Look, come back this afternoon; I will try to explain to you who the 195 'other workers' are." He does not know and has just been involved in drafting a plan to reduce the payroll. They say that when Fidel found out that the enterprise had just 128 farm workers, out of a total of more than 1,000 workers, he made a big fuss. These reporters are now finding out that the chief of human resources does not know what the 195 "other workers" do.

Bureaucracy is like a malignant cancer, and agriculture has not escaped it. Its symptoms are: payrolls inflated with unproductive workers, the underutilization of specialists and engineers by having them do office chores, and excessive paperwork.

Unlike the cooperatives, which tend to have just three or four individuals discharging administrative functions while the rest are in the fields, many state-run enterprises are bursting with unproductive personnel.

"This is due to the large number of branch and umbrella agencies hanging over the enterprise, all of which have to be given unofficial and official information," says Orlando Gutierrez from Pinar del Rio, the director of the Los Palacios rice CAI [Industrial Automation Center].

To top it all off, many of those surveyed agree with Juan Antonio Francisco, the director of the San Andres miscellaneous-crops enterprise in Sancti Spiritus, who thinks that "the agencies ask us for information without worrying about its quality. We have not handed in certain papers, and nothing has happened."

The planning chief of the Jovellanos enterprise, Pepe Jorrin, asserts that of the 53 official forms that they have to hand in, only eight really have to do with the enterprise.

What is the origin of bureaucracy and "homologuismo," as they call the duplication of structures from the ministry to the local level? When the provincial delegates are asked why they request so much paperwork, they reply: "What do you want me to do? They ask me for it too."

Some of the most reasonable proposals by the people we surveyed for correcting the shortcomings arising from attempts to rigidly centralize enterprise management are: to begin reducing payrolls from top to bottom, to give the enterprises greater autonomy in structuring their work forces, and to combine the umbrella agencies to make them truly efficient.

Just One Kind of Success

Agriculture will have to recover in the toughest of times. Paradoxically, the very shortage of fuel and other resources that further strains the situation is the variable that makes a solution so urgent.

The narrowness of certain approaches that have prevailed so far has to be overcome. Their consequences include more than the corrosive shortage of manpower and the other problems we have mentioned. The people surveyed also spoke of complicated procurement procedures, weak supervision, and irregularities in the distribution to the network of small and large markets.

The impact of science and technology was also questioned, as was the gap between professionals and workers in the fields.

Jorge Luis Anaya, from the Insect Predators and Pathogens Reproduction Center of Sancti Spiritus, feels that the talent that the Revolution has created has not been taken advantage of by agriculture. "Imported pesticides used to be wasted, and very few people thought about developing biological controls...I think that the urgent need to solve problems on our own is good for us."

If we go by the opinion of assistant delegates Hober Hernandez from Santiago and Carlos Obregon from Holguin, scientific and technological achievements will have to be applied more equitably throughout the country. Like other people interviewed, they contend that progress is late to arrive in the provinces.

There are many unknowns and ideas boiling away in the cauldron of agriculture, as well as many hopes. But there can only be one kind of success: a conclusive, lasting guarantee of a well-stocked kitchen.

[Box, p 9]

Watch Out for Lack of Supervision

A few years ago, as I was traveling in the interior of the country, I met a man resting on the side of the road. Beside him was a shovel; behind him was a field whose crops were overrun by weeds. "Do you feel alright?" I asked him. "No, I am tired," he replied; "just look at that sun and that awful field. I am on my way home right now." Of course I could see the field, an awful one, as he said, the weeds, and the sun, but I also knew what time it was: ten in the morning...I later found out that he worked alone, a few kilometers from the farm, and that his boss had not been around there for days. I did not say what I was thinking because I realized that the man was engaged in the toughest of farm work, while his boss-...Where was he?

This story came to mind when I heard the outcry for greater decentralization, fewer instructions, and an across-the-board hike in wages in farming (just demands, to be sure). Most of the sector's problems are also blamed on: manpower shortages, the lack of dedication among professionals, duplication of efforts, quotas, inappropriate structures, and the major culprit, the weather (too much water or its total absence, whirlwinds on banana plantations, atmospheric phenomena of major scope). Yet not one of the persons I surveyed said that lack of supervision was one of the most serious shortcomings.

Now that we on our way to resolving the problems besetting agriculture, we must not overlook the need to end the lack of supervision that is devastating our fields much as a pest would.

If measures are taken to make work more flexible and to remove the barriers thwarting the development of agriculture from below, it is essential to tighten supervision. Careful, though. This does not mean keeping even more statistics than the many that already exist in this sector. Moreover, we must caution those who trust that higher wages represent the magic answer to the problem. Neither regulations nor decrees can by themselves effect changes.

There must be supervision at the work site, thereby eventually shortening the long road from the office to the field.

Barbados

Prime Minister Sandiford Announces New Cabinet

FL2801151691 Bridgetown CANA in English 2352 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 26, CANA—Barbados' prime minister, Erskine Sandiford, on Saturday announced a 13-member cabinet and a new Justice and Public Safety Ministry. Sandiford reshaped the line-up he had had before his Democratic Labour Party was returned to power in last Tuesday's general election and brought in a young lawyer, David Thompson, as minister of Community Development and Culture.

Sandiford retained Branford Taitt as health minister, Maurice King as attorney general and minister of foreign affairs, Cyril Walker as minister of education, and former West Indies fast Bowler Wes Hall as minister of tourism and sport. Evelyn Greaves, a trade union leader, was switched from the Trade Ministry to head Housing and Lands; Harold Blackman, the housing minister in the last cabinet, is now minister of state in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. Sandiford, who retains the finance portfolio, described Blackman as "a full-fledged minister."

Former magistrate Keith Simmons, the employment and labour minister in the last cabinet, will head the new Justice and Public Safety Ministry which Sandiford said reflected "increased attention to the question of law and order." The new trade minister is Dr. Carl Clarke, former minister of state in the Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry. Harcourt Lewis is taking over as minister of agriculture, after being a minister of state with responsibility for agriculture. He replaces Warwick Franklin, the new minister of labour, consumer affairs and the environment. Clarke and Lewis are the only cabinet members not elected to the House of Assembly. Lewis will be leader of the Senate, and Deputy Prime Minister Philip Greaves, leader of the House of Assembly. Greaves is also minister of public works, communications, and transport.

Sandiford, Taitt, King, and Greaves were sworn in this week. The other ministers will be sworn in on Monday. The state opening of Parliament is planned for February 6. The DLP has 18 of the 28 House of Assembly seats. The others are held by the Barbados Labour Party, which on Saturday announced party chief Henry Forde would be parliamentary opposition leader.

Sandiford also announced the appointment of two parliamentary secretaries—Senator Anderson Morrison (assigned to the minister of public works); and Senator Maizie Barker-Welch (assigned to the prime minister, Ministry of Public Service).

The new Justice and Public Safety Ministry will have responsibility for the police, prisons, fire service—which had fallen under the attorney general's jurisdiction. "This new ministry is an indication that we will be paying even increased attention to the question of law and order in our society, and to ensure that those aspects which we stressed during our campaign, and for which we have a mandate, that we will be pursuing these with determination to stamp out any acts of lawlessness or any other kind of deviant behaviour that leads to breaches of the law," Sandiford told reporters.

The community development and culture minister, Thompson Heads, has taken a portion of the old Education and Culture as well as Employment, Labour Relations, and Community Development Ministries. Sandiford said of it: "This is an indication also of a new thrust

in this area, that we will be more people-oriented in this administration, that we will be seeking to build up our communities across the country, and that we will be paying a special attention to the role of the family and to groups in the community in order that we can strengthen our culture and strengthen the personalities of our people so that we can resist the kinds of penetration and...alien forms of behaviour that seem to be growing in our society."

The Barbados Cabinet:
Erskine Sandiford—prime minister, minister of finance and economic affairs, and minister for the civil service.
Maurice King—attorney general and minister of foreign affairs.
Branford Taitt—minister of health.
Evelyn Greaves—minister of housing and lands.
Harold Blackman—minister of state, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.
Keith Simmons—minister of justice and public safety.
Warwick Franklin—minister of labour, consumer affairs, and the environment.
Wes Hall—minister of tourism and sports.
Harcourt Lewis—minister of agriculture, food, and fisheries and leader of the Senate.
Cyril Walker—minister of education.
Dr. Carl Clarke—minister of trade, industry, and commerce.
David Thompson—minister of community development and culture.

Opposition Labour Party Names Shadow Cabinet

FL2901040091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2210 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 28, CANA—The Barbados Labour Party (BLP), which will form the official opposition during the new parliamentary term beginning February 6, on Monday named a shadow cabinet comprising its 10 representatives elected in last Tuesday's general election.

A BLP statement said party leader Henry Forde will shadow some portfolios held by Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford, including defence and security and the civil service. Forde will also be the BLP foreign affairs spokesman.

Former Prime Minister Bernard St. John, who was re-elected to Parliament last Tuesday after a four-and-a-half year absence, will be the spokesman on agriculture, fisheries, energy, and Caribbean affairs.

Economist Owen Arthur retained responsibility for finance and economic affairs and former Attorney-General David Simmons will continue to shadow that ministry and "home affairs," an apparent reference to the new Justice and Public Safety Ministry.

Delisle Bradshaw, a former minister of labour, will be spokesman on transport and works; trade, industry, and international services are the responsibility of former Agriculture Minister Richard Cheltenham; former Health Minister Billie Miller will be spokesman on tourism and international transport; and Louis Tull, former trade minister, will shadow housing, the environment, and rural modernization.

BLP newcomers Rawle Eastmond and George Payne, respectively, will have responsibility for education, and social development and labour. In the last Parliament, the BLP had three elected representatives.

Haiti

President-Elect Aristide Gives News Conference

FL2801192091 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in French 2000 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Report on news conference by President-elect Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide with unidentified reporters, just before his departure for an official 48-hour visit to Paris, at Mais Gate International Airport in Port-au-Prince—live and recorded in French; italicized passages in Creole]

[Text] As I mentioned a few minutes ago, I had to interrupt the music to pass the mike on to Gina Porcena and Emmelyne Prophete, our two news correspondents at the Mais Gate International Airport. Before embarking on his trip to France, President-elect Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide made some statements. Here is the report by Gina Porcena and Emmelyne Prophete.

[Porcena] Actually, we just came from the International Airport. Father Aristide and seven members of his staff left the country for France where he will officially stay for 48 hours at the invitation of the French Government.

Aristide left with French Ambassador to Haiti, Raphael Dufour, as well as with Dr. Mallebranche and Wesner Emmanuel, who is the third senator in the West Department. Also accompanying him were Mrs. Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue as press attache, engineer and economist Frantz Verella, and agronomist Francois Sevrin.

[Prophete] Let us point out that Father Aristide will be received by President Francois Mitterrand Tuesday, 29 January. The Haitian president-elect, who will be appointed, as everybody knows, on 7 February, will also meet with Prime Minister Michel Rocard and the minister of foreign affairs, Roland Dumas. Do you have something to add, Gina?

[Porcena] I think the listeners are eager to hear the latest statements made by Father Aristide just before he left. Listen.

[Begin recording] [Aristide] *I am happy to accept the invitation of President Mitterrand, and I am glad that he will be meeting the Haitian people through me. This happiness does not prevent me from thinking of this morning's victims and contemplating how such a thing*

happened. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sympathy to their families, and to share with them in their sorrow.

I am leaving, and I am sure I am leaving without the keys to the house. The keys to the house, that is, the keys of the country, are in the people's hands. They have been democratically holding its keys since 16 December, polling day, and I am sure that we will continue, with the Haitian Army, to be vigilant in order to prepare for 7 February. It is we, the people who are threshing the democratic corn, who must keep keep an eye out for the rains, together with the Haitian Army.

[First reporter] What is the origin of last night's events? What caused them?

[Aristide] Where there is injustice, one can expect acts of terrorism. The terrorists do not like to see democracy come of age, especially when that democracy is affirmed by international scrutiny. It is the eve of a departure. The terrorists are displeased. The more they can disrupt the process of change, the more they will try to do so. But fortunately, the people are alert, in collaboration with their Army.

[First reporter] Is this not imprudent?

[Aristide] Absolutely not. The Haitian people are ready for democracy and have proven it several times. This is a favorable opportunity to demonstrate that it is the people and those who are united to the people who are watching over the [Haitian] democracy. Thus, it is not an imprudence.

[Second reporter] *Do you not think that this could interfere with your departure today?*

[Aristide] *I will, in any case, make this trip. The only thing I can tell you is that the Haitian people are there, and that the keys to the house are in their hands. Together with the Haitian Army, they are keeping an eye on the rains so that nothing prevents us from celebrating this democratic victory with all of Haiti's friends 7 February.*

[Third reporter] *The same person who said that there would be a coup-d'etat today has asserted that there is another coup d'etat planned for 4 February. What do you think of this?*

[Aristide] *The people are there, together with the Army.*

[Fourth reporter] *What do you expect from this visit you are making to France?*

[Aristide] *We are going to strengthen the [Haitian] democracy.*

[Second reporter] *What is the importance of this trip to France for you?*

[Aristide] *It has great importance for the Haitian people because the more we move along, together with other countries who want to bring democracy to flower, the more will emerge the perfume of solidarity.* [end recording]

Let us point out that Jean Thomas, minister of defense within the provisional government, was with the president-elect until his departure time. A member of the private secretariat of the president-elect, Renaud Bernadin, was also with him. A crowd was present for Father Aristide's departure. Many people went to the airport to applaud the elected president of the Republic.

Discusses Security

FL2801212091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Report on news conference by President-elect Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 25 January; place not given]

[Excerpts] Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in an interview granted our reporter stated that his government would apply the law while also following the Bible. He will be an example of a president who respects the law so that the country can go forward. The president-elect added that he would respect the political position of each church leader, even those who do not see things the same way he does because he wants to establish democracy in the country.

[Begin Aristide recording] Today, the insecurity problems are still weapons in the hands of the Macoutes. We have not succeeded in disarming the Macoutes who are still causing insecurity. When people burned the nuncio's residence, they used the same insecurity weapon which has become very dangerous. It all happened before anyone could identify the Macoutes, wearing blue uniforms, who were committing the act. At present those same Macoutes, disguising themselves and pretending to being on our side, are continuing to wrong church authorities and buildings while trying to blame such actions on good people. In this sense, I condemn all forms of insecurity whoever does it. If yesterday, the Macoute regime was committing acts of insecurity and still today insecurity is in the hands of Macoutes, then tomorrow the population must try to find a country without insecurity. It is unfortunate that right now there is the impression that the power of the masses has become insecurity for some people, while in fact; the actual insecurity problem comes from those Macoutes who freely threaten democracy and prevent the population from sleeping. The population must remain vigilant to seek organization and justice so that those people who are truly responsible for the insecurity problems are arrested. [end recording]

Jean-Bertrand Aristide advised that in any society which wants to establish democracy, no responsible person can accept that intolerance should give birth to insecurity. [passage omitted]

Aristide also later stated that he had found opportunities to change justice in Haiti and to force the persons in

charge to act according to the law. As a politician, he uses the Constitution as a compass to respect the law while at the same time follows the Bible. [passage omitted]

Finally, Father Aristide asks all Haitians believing in justice and freedom to allow the cleanup operation to take place in each person's mind so that society can really begin to change.

The president-elect met with journalists today in a news conference in order for both parties to have frank dialogue, listening to each other regarding the quality of the relations to be established between the press and the new government.

Port-au-Prince Mayor Discusses Recent Unrest

FL2801224591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Yesterday, the new mayor of Port-au-Prince, Evans Paul—alias K-Plim—who is also a National Front for Progress and Democracy spokesman, visited several radio stations in the capital in an attempt to convince the people that there was not really a coup taking place and that all the political prisoners were behind bars. When he heard that people were being killed and injured in Carrefour [southwest Port-au-Prince suburb] and Cite Soleil [northwest Port-au-Prince suburb], the Port-au-Prince mayor personally went to the General Hospital and one more time asked for the resignation of the Army General Staff because they cannot initiate the necessary reforms so that people do not have to sleep with anxiety watching out for a coup each night. The population must be alert, it is true, but it must be careful about false rumors.

Evans Paul thinks evil forces are behind this coup rumor, forces who are maneuvering to destabilize the country and to create a tension of fear so as to boycott 7 February. There will always be incidents when people are uprising, but this time it was the Haitian Army which was rough, says the new mayor. [passage omitted]

According to Evans Paul, many efforts are going to be made so that soldiers stop killing people in the countryside as well as in the cities. People must also follow the watchwords of the officials. The mayor thinks that there is no danger of a coup because the gate is closed. He explains why.

[Begin Paul recording] The coup gate is closed for two reasons. First, after what was revealed on 7 January and last night [27 January], I do not see how a military man or a few Macoutes can imagine that they can take by force the power from the people. I do not see how. Therefore, the coup gate is closed. There is another consideration. We must be vigilant because even if they cannot effect a coup to take power, they can create a tense situation that keeps schools closed, 7 February from not being celebrated, the carnival not being organized, and a lot of other problems that paralyze the country. We do not want that. Therefore, we have launched a watchword so that the people can be alerted through order and discipline so that they follow the watchwords of the leaders they believe in. [passage omitted] [end recording]

K-Plim deplores the act of dechoucage [uprooting]. He advises, however, that it is because there is no justice that the people commit this act. He believes the new government is going to make an effort to establish proper justice and to fight delinquency, and by doing so, the uprooting system will disappear. [passage omitted]

At Least 10 Dead, 8 Wounded After Coup Rumor

FL2801163891 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in French 1825 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] According to Radio Metropole, a private Port-au-Prince radio station, four people suspected of being neo-Duvalierists were struck dead by demonstrators this morning in a northern suburb of Port-au-Prince. A journalist witnessed the bodies in a looted house. According to several reports, the house belonged to a former member of the Tontons Macoutes.

These new victims bring the final toll of violences recorded today in Port-au-Prince to at least 10 dead and eight wounded, following a popular uprising provoked by unfounded rumors of a neo-Duvalierist coup d'etat during the night of 26-27 January. At least eight persons had already been shot to death, and eight others injured by soldiers in Carrefour, in the southern part of Port-au-Prince where demonstrators burnt down a police station.

These incidents occurred as President-elect Jean-Bertrand Aristide was preparing for a 48-hour visit to Paris. The violence also followed the publication of the results of the second ballot of the legislative elections in which no party had won an absolute majority in Parliament. Complying with the Constitution, President Aristide will thus have to choose the future prime minister in consultation with the president of the Senate, which has 27 members, and the president of the Chamber of Deputies, which has 83 members.

Several Dead

FL2801133591 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] A number of people have been killed in disturbances in Haiti. A local radio station reported that the police had shot 10 demonstrators, but the police speak of three dead. Riots had broke out amidst rumors of an imminent coup. It had also been rumored that a former leader of the dreaded secret police, the Tontons Macoutes, had escaped from prison. Military leaders in Haiti emphatically denied the rumors. In the slums of the capital, Port-au-Prince, rioters set up barricades and set them on fire. A police station was also attacked, whereupon police opened fire on the demonstrators.

Further on Turmoil

FL2901031091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Excerpts] During the past week, rumors circulated throughout the country and especially in the capital concerning an eventual coup as well as an attempt to free the perpetrators of the abortive transfer of power. The capital which basically stays up all night was feeling the rising tension. It was enough to bring a crowd into the streets to set up burning barricades which produced heavy black smoke. This was an expression of a population which felt its rights violated even though no specific information was leaking out on the matter. The population quickly intensified to mobilize in all the popular quarters. In Carrefour, demonstrators ransacked the Torland police station after witnesses reported 11 people were killed by police bullets. A press release from the Army High Command secretariat termed the rumors as false and asked the population to keep calm. [passage omitted]

This Army communique reassured some but left many others indifferent. It was by then too late for some. Four people were killed by the population at Carrefour Marin on National Highway No. 1 in the house of an alleged Macoute. In a similar situation in Cite Soleil there was a young man stoned to death and his body burned. It was in in Cite Soleil that the youngest victim—a five-year-old boy, Franzon Derelus—was found having been killed by a bullet in the jaw. During an improvised car search on National Highway No. 1, the population found an amount of cocaine belonging to Private First Class Jonas Louis who was taken to the Cazeau police station where policemen of the 22d Company and the narcotic services had to intervene in order to calm the population who was accusing them of protecting Macoutes in the police station.

Meanwhile, demonstrations and rare scenes of dechoucage [uprooting] were reported. The National Front for Change and Democracy spokesman and mayor of Port-au-Prince, Evans Paul [alias K-Plim] denies the rumors and asks the population to remain calm and vigilant. K-Plim states that there was no danger during the night of 26 January through until the morning of 27 January. [passage omitted]

Peace has returned to several areas where barricades were removed and the roads cleaned up. In Carrefour, where according to witnesses, 11 people died and 16 were wounded, many people were angry. Ambulance men of the State University Hospital could not take the dead bodies to the mortuary, because the population refused to allow them to do so in the absence of a witnessing justice of peace. The day of 27 January ended with as many questions as 7 January did... [passage omitted]

Further on Results of 20 Jan Elections

FL2901004591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The results of the second ballot of the elections were published over the weekend. No party has the majority needed to provide the prime minister. President-Elect Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide must choose the prime minister jointly with the president of the Senate which has 20 members and the president of the Chamber of Deputies which has 83 members. This is in compliance with Article 137 of the Constitution which states: In the absence of a majority party in the parliament from which should come the prime minister, and this being the case, the president [of the Republic] must confer with the president of the Senate and the president of the Chamber of Deputies to choose the prime minister.

The avalanche coalition which supports Father Aristide of the National Front for Change and Democracy received 40 seats: 13 senators and 27 deputies. The National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP] received 23 seats: six senators and 17 deputies.

Louis Dejoie's National Agricultural and Industrial Party, which announced that it might make an alliance with Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide after the first ballot, and the Haitian Christian Democratic Party headed by Reverend Sylvio Claude each received eight seats in parliament.

Leslie Manigat's Assembly of Progressive National Democrats received seven parliamentary seats. The Mobilization for National Development headed by Hubert de Ronceray received five seats. The National Party of Labor headed by Thomas Desulme won four seats. Rene Theodore's Movement for National Reconstruction [MRN] secured three seats. The Democratic Movement for Liberation of Haiti headed by Francois Latortue received two seats. The Cooperative Action Movement [MKN] headed by Volvick Remy Joseph won two seats. One of the two seats secured by the MKN is from the district of Port-Salut, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's hometown. This is something many people find bizarre.

Six independent candidates were also successful in the general elections. Among them is Guy Beauduy, a former Jean-Claude Duvalier progressive minister, who everybody knows because of his commitment to the masses and the peasants. He has been elected senator for the Southeastern Department.

Among the elected senators there are two ANDP leaders: Socialist Serge Gilles of the National Progressive Revolutionary Party and Centrist Dejean Belizaire of the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November.

The MRN of Rene Theodore was successful in the north of the country where it has two senators as well as the mayor and deputy of Cap-Haitien.

Guatemala

Asylum Considered for Two Panamanian Officers

PA2801223291 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] Ricardo de la Torre, spokesman for the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry, said yesterday that Foreign Minister Alvaro Arzu is making investigations to determine whether or not to grant asylum to two officers who sought refuge at the Guatemalan Embassy in Panama.

They are Captain Jorge Bernal and Lieutenant Mario Rosas Ocana, who are linked to a foiled coup attempt led by former Colonel Eduardo Herrera against the government of President Guillermo Endara in December.

De la Torre said that in compliance with international agreements the two were immediately granted provisional asylum until it is determined whether the Panamanian Government will grant safe-conduct to the two coupist officers. Should safe-conduct be granted them, five officers will be allowed to leave for Guatemalan territory.

International news dispatches state that Capt. Bernal is believed to be the leader of guerrilla groups operating in Panama, and that he served in the Panama Defense Forces headed by former General Manuel Antonio Noriega in the capacity of chief of the Doberman antiriot squad that repressed the people.

Foreign Minister Arzu is investigating whether these officers are the victims of political persecution, and if so will grant them asylum; if they have committed other crimes, however, asylum will be denied, De La Torre added.

Statistics Institute Reports Inflation Increase

PA2301221491 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 22 Jan 91 p 7

[Text] During the first week in January, the accumulated annual rate of inflation for the previous year was determined to be 3.38 percent. The most significant increases are in monthly payments, fees, and school tuition with an increase of 22 percent, according to figures from the National Institute of Statistics [INE].

The area of second greatest increase, according to the INE investigation, is shoes with a nine percent increase. This is followed by home textiles with an increase of four percent.

The INE statistics are based on a study of 212 basic consumer products and changes in prices in Guatemala City. The figures are compiled and compared to figures from previous years. A constant increase in inflation has been observed since 1983, the base year.

The last week of December 1990 showed an accumulated annual inflation rate of 8.33 percent with regard to the previous month, and the most affected area was public transportation as well as fuel with an increase of 23.35 percent. This entry is followed by housing expenditures with a nine percent increase. Medical services ranked third with a 7.6 percent increase.

The year 1990 brought the greatest inflation rate for Guatemalans, according to INE figures. The final data show that the accumulated annual inflation was 60 percent. Even though other groups are saying the inflation rate was greater, only the INE has sufficient information available to conduct a technically accurate study.

According to the figures made available, the rate of inflation for April 1990 was 12 percent; May, 18.8 percent; June, 23 percent; July, 48 percent; August, 29 percent; September 36.5 percent; October, 42 percent; November, 48 percent; and December, 60 percent.

Honduras

Callejas Discusses First Year in Office

PA2701031291 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 24 Jan 91 pp 2,3

[Exclusive interview with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas by Eduardo Maldondo; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Maldondo] Do you feel that members of the population do not understand the economic adjustment program or is it just the opposition sector that does not agree?

[Callejas] I feel that the great majority of the urban population is unaware of the need to make these decisions—that is, the implementation of the adjustment program. I feel that the majority is unaware even more so than the opposition for reasons which I myself have also had. But this opposition forgets that the previous lack of indecision has produced this situation now.

Yes, I do feel that I have been unable to get across to the people that these measures were and continue to be necessary in constructing the nation's future.

[Maldondo] Many sectors believe that you started your administration on the wrong foot because first there was the floods, then the fuel prices went up, and then the Persian Gulf war broke out. Therefore, if some positive steps have been taken, does this take us back almost to the same place we were before all of this started?

[Callejas] I believe that these events are adversities in the life of the nation. The floods are a phenomena that have gradually increased to the extent that the environment is destroyed, and no decisions were or are being taken to control this issue.

The conflict in the Near East and the oil price increase has had negative effects on the nation. But what is even more important is that the government has faced these three problems stoically, and for the first time in many

years we have established the basic principle that Honduran problems must be solved by the Hondurans.

We have not asked for handouts to solve our crisis. We have solved our problems, in these three aspects, in a timely manner, but with great sacrifices for the Honduran people. The increase in fuel prices alone has resulted in a 10-percent increase in the inflation process.

I trust that, despite these difficult circumstances, the year that has just ended will reap fundamental benefits for the future as far as the economy is concerned. But there is no doubt that it is not easy to implement a restructuring program of the economy with two increases in fuel prices. On top of that, there were the floods linked to the banana sector conflict. Of the two national problems, the floods and the banana sector conflict are the ones that have had the most significant negative impact.

[Maldondo] What other problems did you face in 1990?

[Callejas] Another problem that came up, and I consider it important, was the political relationship with the ruling party. In this sense, the relationship has been excellent with the Legislative and Judicial Branches. But I also noticed that there is dissatifaction in some sectors of the party's political structure because they were not appointed to all the government positions.

As far as I am concerned this position is totally acceptable for them, but it is not in keeping with government policy as the government is not the nation's principal employer.

I feel that although relations with the ruling National Party's political leadership are good, there is a slight rift between the government and the party's rank and file. The latter would like to see more substitutions in the government. As we move forward in the process, however, we must realize that public employees are not the problem which, in reality, is caused by massive unemployment derived from a deteriorated national economy. That situation has been a limiting factor in our efforts to promote better political options for the government. [passage omitted]

[Maldondo] What is your opinion of the private sector's attitude? Has it shown solidarity with the government?

[Callejas] To a certain extent, but it depends on what sector we are talking about. I cannot talk in general terms. I have had the highly positive support of many sectors, and there are other sectors which are uncertain that the solutions which favor their interests will be achieved in the near future.

I would say that the private sector is still unaware of our goal, which is a free economy, an economy oriented to an efficient use of our resources, an economy which gives opportunities to our society. The private sector is mostly influenced by ideas of paternalism, protectionism, and subsidies, so it is affected by all this. There is no doubt that the monetary limitations and the lack of foreign currency resulting from the problems we have faced, and the ones we will face to a certain extent in 1991, have created an atmosphere of uncertainty in some private sector areas.

[Maldondo] What about the military sector?

[Callejas] Support from the military has been excellent; there is no doubt that the Armed Forces have been most consistent. It has decided wholeheartedly to carry out the program, and it has been most supportive. General Cantarero's resignation had nothing to do with this; it was an internal issue in the Armed Forces, but naturally it will have internal repercussions. From the government's viewpoint, however, relations have been as they should be within a constitutional framework. The Armed Forces fully understand why we had to make those decisions.

[Maldondo] Do you think you have fought corruption during your first year in office?

[Callejas] Yes, a lot. The best proof has been the radical increase in customs revenues and income tax collections. This implies better control and indicates that influence played a small role in the decision to collect those revenues.

There is no doubt that corruption is a deeply ingrained problem in the Honduran society and not only at government level; however, we have achieved progress despite the criticism, some of which was legitimate and resulted because of the influence of public officials on certain levels.

I believe that most of the government's actions have been honest. We have been surprised by the charges of people we have talked to, like Msgr. Luis Ernesto Santos, for example. We spoke with him openly, and the information that he gave me was one report from the National Corporation for Investment and another from the comptrollership of the Republic.

I will personally ask the National Congress to review the report carefully and to act accordingly with the comptrollership of the Republic to protect the state's interests. We can remember the 1986 report, which was presented to the previous administration and has apparently slept the sleep of the just.

We will review the case because of Msgr. Santos' charges, and because I think the Honduran people should know about the report. The National Congress should study the report and then undertake the appropriate measures.

As far as I am concerned, I will investigate any charges backed by the proper evidence, but charges that are mere speculation or unjust accusations must be avoided because, like I told Msgr. Santos, as far as people close to the government are concerned, only two are mentioned in the report.

[Maldondo] Who is mentioned in the report?

[Callejas] I will withhold the names because I believe that a public report should be studied first. One of the two people has been investigated and that investigation has been closed; in other words, the investigation has been closed because the public sector, meaning the comptrollership of the Republic, has cleared him. I have asked the other person to defend himself because I do not think he should be subject to these types of accusations.

Moreover, I think that many mistakes have been corrected. Take the sugar issue. Charges were presented against public officials, and even some of my relatives were investigated, but nothing ever came of it. The people were not guilty of hoarding sugar; other groups were found guilty and the sugar was confiscated.

[Maldondo] Would you go out on a limb for all government employees?

[Callejas] I would say that I support their actions and that it is important for them—which they accept—to be able to defend themselves from accusations made against them. I would not stick my hand in a fire to defend anyone unless I am absolutely sure that they are innocent. I believe that everyone has the right to defend himself from accusations. After the person involved has defended himself and clarified his position, one can become committed. [sentence as published] Meanwhile, however, we will continue investigating all accusations.

One thing I can say is that the problem of corruption in relation to customs and public auctions has been considerably reduced. There are not as many reports in the media on both subjects as in the past. We can see that, other than some cases in the health sector, there have been no other charges of corruption within the government.

[Maldondo] On the subject of amnesty, you have been an important negotiator in permitting the return of leftist leaders to the country with all guarantees. You have been criticized, however, for not granting a broader or general amnesty. It has even been said that Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani has asked you not to release some political prisoners.

[Callejas] It should be clear that no foreign country or president can interfere in our internal affairs. I want this to be clear. The partial amnesty came as a result of a dialogue with peasants; it was part of the agreement.

We reached a broad agreement with the peasant sector, which included the amnesty. As the president of Congress said during an interview, the amnesty will be granted in accordance with the way in which Congress interprets the agreement, and not based on the interpretation by other sectors of society. The amnesty granted to peasants is clear, absolute, and total. I believe that requests from other sectors must be the result of agreements reached through dialogue.

Not only political, but also human aspects should be taken into consideration. The government feels that those who are in jail for arms trafficking should not be granted an amnesty. The church itself has said through its highest authorities that those who have killed other human beings do not deserve amnesty.

We are willing to consider the possibility of providing amnesty to other sectors, based on agreements reached through dialogue with groups whose actions are harmful for the nation's institutions.

[Maldonda] For example?

[Callejas] Political sectors and other social sectors that could benefit from those alternatives.

[Maldonda] Is your government willing to hold talks in that regard?

[Callejas] Yes, as long as they are held within those parameters.

[Maldonda] Regarding the situation within your party, do you think that the National Party is divided?

[Callejas] No, it is united and will remain united around the candidate selected by the party.

[Maldonda] Will you support any specific candidate?

[Callejas] The candidate who wins will be supported by all party members. As a member I will give my full support to whoever wins as he will represent the party. I will not support just any presidential hopeful, however, because I feel that winning the next election will also depend on the results of the government program, which I am optimistic will yield positive results.

In that regard, the candidate should have the party's full support, not just symbolically. We eliminated that tradition when I entered the electoral struggle in 1982, when we realized that the people and not the party's symbols control the party. In that sense, the party must chose a candidate supported by the people, and all party members should support him. [passage omitted]

[Maldonda] Some say that you have been too weak with the speculators and crooks who steal money by exaggerating prices when they know there are no conditions for doing so.

[Callejas] That is a very complex problem, and the government has been fighting it very seriously. Fines have surpassed 1.5 million lempiras. We have assigned people to this task. We have seized products and sought every alternative to solve this problem. This process of speculation, however, is the result of the profound and radical change that has occurred in the Honduran economy.

We devalued the currency, we changed the price of fuel. All this prompted an inflationary spiral. However, we hope the inflation rate will remain at 15 or 16 percent for the time being and that this will reduce the level of

speculation. In addition, the fact that import tariffs were reduced shows that there will be no more problems of this kind. The government will have oil during this time of crisis until the end of March; this means that fuel will not be the reason for an inflationary process.

We have also witnessed a stabilization of the currency. Fuel prices are also relatively stable. We have access to certain products we did not have in 1990. We have international credibility and access to the financing of foreign currency. New credit lines have been opened. In other words, we can foresee economic stability and a stronger economy in 1991. [passage omitted]

[Maldonda] Finally, the Persian Gulf war—will it not put the government in a precarious situation over the next six months? Are you not afraid that the U.S. aid will not be forthcoming because of that country's involvement in the war?

[Callejas] Of course there is concern. That is why we hope the war will end soon. We hope there will be stability and peace in that region so that we can have a more positive outlook. If the war lasts longer than predicted, then implications for the world will be grave, not only for Honduras but for all the world. A slow down in the econmy, a lack of investment, and uncertainty about the conflict is going to result in a more profound recession, and this will affect everybody.

[Maldonda] Are you pleased with the past year of government?

[Callejas] It is hard to express satisfaction. What I can say is that I have completed my first year in government based on guidelines and expectations that are correct as far as my expectations are concerned. [passage omitted]

Callejas Speech to Opening Session of Congress

PA2701042791 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1715 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Speech by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas to the National Congress at the opening of the legislative period, from the Congress Building in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We are trying to change from being completely dependent on food imports to being self-sustaining in the production of the people's basic needs. To implement all these actions, and I want to make this absolutely clear, we face problems resulting from many years of poor markets [nine-second break in reception] because of the effect of prices resulting from the economic readjustment measures. I regret to have to say this to the nation, but in making the nation productive again, the effects of these measures have eroded the people's buying power.

Exports were not as much as we had expected. That is why the foreign currency exchange in 1990 was still negative. This implies that for 1991 our main source of foreign currency should come from exports. I repeat, the Honduran people have suffered the effects of these profound changes. The increase in the price of fuels has negatively affected the masses by increasing their poverty.

In 1991, however, we envision a more favorable year for our economy. According to the central bank, we expect to reduce our inflation rate from 35 to 16 percent in 1991. Of course, this all depends on the Persian Gulf conflict and its possibile dramatic impact on the price of fuel, which might speed inflation.

We will continue our efforts to reduce the government payroll and not to finance government operations with credits that could be used to finance productive operations. We will keep the lempira competitive in real terms.

For several years or decades, the Honduran economy was characterized by excessive protective tariffs. This led to the creation of commercial monopolies and oligopolies. That is why one of our main decisions in 1990 was to lower import tariffs that effectively reduced protectionism from a maximum nominal rate of 335 percent [as heard] to an initial level of 40 percent; it will then be reduced to 20 percent in 1992. .

These are the goals and expected results of our new trade policy. Last year represented a period of transition and consolidation of our new policy of open trade.

During this period we have tried to end the generalized practice of assuming that prices are an official mechanism to regulate supply and demand. This practice has only resulted in more speculation, lack of initiative for production, and periodic shortages. In this context, prices must be regarded as an instrument to promote production to meet the domestic demand and generate exports. As an integral part of the country's new trade policy, and seeking to increase our competitiveness and supply of goods for national consumption, we have energetically promoted the process of regional integration to go beyond Central American borders. This integrationist effort places Honduras in the world trend of forming economic blocs. Honduras must participate in this line of thought or it will suffer the negative consequences of economic isolation.

The government has proved that it is possible to effectively manage the state's domestic and foreign resources. Our main achievement in 1990 is having recovered our credibility regarding the proper handling of the nation's finances, despite the enormous fiscal, monetary, and currency exchange crisis that this government inherited. [applause]

My government started to function with a public debt of 8.703 billion [currency not specified]. This amounts to 90 percent of the gross national product [GNP]. I am pleased to report that our public debt for 1990 is only 76 percent of our GNP.

I am also pleased to report to the deputies that we are no longer on the list of countries which are ineligible for financial assistance. [applause]

The government inherited a budget situation that concealed many commitments for 1990. They had not been fulfilled nor incorporated in the general budget. These commitments amounted to 645 million lempiras according to a report sent to Congress when the budget was approved.

The government decided to reduce the expense budget by 240 million lempiras. This resulted in the budget being approved for 3.5 billion lempiras, inlcuding all the expense commitments that in the past had not been included in the budget. In real terms, the government did not work with greater fiscal revenues. It limited itself to meeting all the pending fiscal commitments. Being aware of the necessary fiscal need for a budget of 3.108 billion lempiras approved for 1990, the government only used 2.557 billion, or 85.2 percent of the budget. These funds were distributed to meet priorities in savings, and 550 million lempiras were used to reduce the enormous fiscal deficit. The net deficit for 1990 was only 353 million lempiras, or 2.9 percent of the GNP, although a deficit of 630 million lempiras, or 5.2 percent of the GNP, had been programmed. We had received a fiscal deficit of 12.5 percent. This means that in terms of fiscal administration, we can assert that we reduced it by almost 10 percent during the fiscal year of 1990. In view of the seriousness of this crisis, we have adopted the austerity measures that this historic moment calls for. If we had not adopted these measures, the fiscal deficit would have reached the huge amount of 1.25 billion lempiras for 1990.

The govenment has made a significant effort which will undoubtedly contribute to putting the nation's finances in a more solid situation to prevent the negative consequences that a disorderly fiscal policy might have on the Honduran people.

To prevent greater damage to the state's autonomous institutions we had to resort to a reduction in spending and increase of some public service rates. Paying these higher rates has directly affected the purchasing power of a percentage of the Honduran population. It is important, however, that during this year we establish a 200-million lempira operational surplus for the state's autonomous institutions. We received those enterprises with a 96-million lempira deficit. Those figures are proof that it is possible to run a country with a system of fiscal discipline and economic order. [applause]

In the field of international relations, the government has been able to overcome the difficult situation it confronted in early 1990. It has overcome a lack of political credibility before the international community and international organizations. It is for this reason that we immediately began to work to promote some actions basically aimed at consolidating peace in the Central American region. The 23 March 1990 Toncontin Agreement, created and promoted by the Honduran Government and signed by the representatives of the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan resistance, with the mediation of His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, opened the doors for the demobilization of the Nicaraguan Contras. The demobilization and repatriation of Nicaraguans from Honduras, as well as the disarming of the fighters in Nicaragua and their reinsertion into the civilian society in their country, concluded on 18 June. In this manner, a dramatic chapter in Central American history ended, demonstrating the huge benefits of negotiation and national reconciliation for the tranquility of our peoples and for the normalization of relations among states traditionally linked by friendship. I am pleased to inform the sovereign National Congress, and proud to tell the Honduran people, that during my government the presence of unconventional troops on Honduran territory has ended, and that on 18 April the Contras abandoned Honduras. [applause]

In addition to the resolution of the Nicaraguan problem, thus complying with what is established in the Esquipulas Agreement, the Honduran Government has also put forth its best efforts to help bring peace to El Salvador. We must stress also that the economic integration of Central America has gained new strength with the approval of an economic action plan. This plan, which has been studied and improved by the ministers and by the presidents during the Punta Arenas presidential summit, was approved during a meeting in Antigua, Guatemala. In this manner a more united and more enthusiastic Central America can face the tremendous challenges that the century will bring for the peoples and governments of the isthmus. If united we wage the necessary battle against poverty, malnutrition, lack of job sources, and for a better future, the chances of success will be greater and what we will leave for future generations will be built on solid foundations of economic recovery and trust in our mutual future. [passage omitted]

I wish to talk to the gentlemen deputies about our Armed Forces. It is necessary that we bear in mind two important factors in our life as a nation, the process of professionalization and consolidation of the Armed Forces. First, we must stress that the Armed Forces are a professional institution that constantly trains and develops men. It has distinctive characteristics. It has spirit, strength, hierarchy, and discipline; it is deeply immersed in the Honduran situation. The Armed Forces are aware of the problems confronted by the nation and this is why, in addition to its constitutional duty of defending the nation, it has also undertaken a responsibility in the development of the nation. Second, the Armed Forces guarantee the electoral processes and the nation's freedom; protecting and respecting the democratic system of government chosen by the people is among its highest priorities.

The people are the main characters in the social, economic, and political changes in the country; therefore, it

is understood that the economic readjustment measures are aimed at giving adequate answers to the needs of the people and interests of the nation. Based on this, the Armed Forces have accepted as an unavoidable sacrifice the impact of the economic readjustment. The hardest blow has been the reduction of its budget. Compared to 1989, the Armed Forces budget has been cut by 10 percent. Despite all this, the Armed Forces have joined the national production plan. The Armed Forces operate the military agricultural farms. Combat units will become battalions that reforest and protect various areas throughout the country to improve the environment and protect our national resources. The Armed Forces are also helping build our communications network with the help of its engineering battalion and its equipment. It also fights contraband and illegal exploitation of our marine resources through the constant surveillance of the Navy. It has launched a campaign, with big plans being made for the future, to fight crime and drug trafficking. This is a social prevention measure and a patriotic responsibility of the Armed Forces.

Now that peace has been restored in Nicaragua and the Contras have abandoned Honduran territory, calm and tranquility has returned to the border with that country. For this reason, restrictions in that area no longer exist. Restrictions are limited along the border with El Salvador in light of the domestic problems experienced in that nation. In overall terms, the Honduran population along the border area can carry out their daily activities in peace, tranquility, and calm guaranteed by our Armed Forces. National conciliation has the support of the armed institution. To attain real national conciliation, it is necessary to work for the freedom of the people, for social justice, and for democratic coexistence. As a rule, for civilized coexistence and national fraternity to exist, the voices of reason and law must always prevail over intolerance and violence. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Daniel Ortega Continues Middle East Peace Trip

PA2801193891 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 28 Jan 91 pp 1,4

[Sergio De Castro report]

[Excerpt] Amman—Former President Daniel Ortega met yesterday with King Husayn and Prince Hassan shortly after arriving in Jordan from Cyprus.

This is his second visit to the Arab country, following the second round of contacts Ortega began on 6 January with political leaders and heads of state to sponsor a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis.

Jordan has been playing a key role in search of peace in the region, but it might become militarily involved in the conflict at any moment if Israel decides to attack Iraq.

Ortega remained in Cyprus two days where he met with President George Vassiliou, Foreign Minister George Iacovou, and Parliament President Vassos Lyssarides.

The Sandinist leader's current tour began in New York where he met with the UN Secretary General. Ortega later visited Jordan, Iraq, Italy, the Vatican, the Soviet Union, Libya, Tunisia, France, and Cyprus.

Cypriot parliament President Vassos Lyssarides, a socialist, stated his support to former President Daniel Ortega's peace initiative, and they established mechanisms for sponsoring a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis.

Lyssarides is in Luxembourg today for a meeting with European parliamentary members, and his agenda includes the Persian Gulf war.

Ortega visited the European Parliament last week when he met with parliamentary members from different political currents.

The former president has met with various political leaders in recent weeks, including Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda.

He also met with Italian Government leader Guido Andreotti, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and PLO President Yasir 'Arafat, among other political and government leaders.

The Jordanian authorities have stated their concern that the Persian Gulf crisis may extend. Prince Hassan indicated that they would defend themselves "if Israel reacts (against the Iraqi missile attacks) and tries to involve Jordan."

Jordan separates Israel from Iraq, and if the Israelis try to attack Iraqi territory by land or air they must necessarily pass through Jordan.

Hassan does not believe that an Israeli reaction is unavoidable because the bombardment being carried out by the allied forces led by the United States—dropping thousands of tons of bombs on Iraq around the clock—make an eventual attack from Israel merely a symbolic action.

Nevertheless, Jordan is preparing for the worst and preparations for a possible war are already evident in the capital.

Members of the military, which carried their rifles without ammunition clips and were dressed in everyday uniforms 15 days ago, today have their weapons ready and are wearing combat uniforms.

Surveillance has significantly increased in key parts of the capital, and some store owners have taped their windows to protect against the possible impact of expansive waves in case of a bombardment. [passage omitted]

Cordoba Devaluation Announced, Fuel Prices Set

PA2801231191 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1330 GMT 28 Jan 91

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Last night the Nicaraguan Central Bank issued a resolution announcing a devaluation in the parity of the cordoba with the U.S. dollar. Starting on 28 January the dollar will sell for 4.1 million cordobas, an increase of 270,000 cordobas. Until yesterday it was selling for 3.74 million cordobas.

The bank also announced the following fuel prices according to the devaluation: a gallon of gasoline, 9.635 cordobas; a gallon of diesel or kerosene, 5.945 million cordobas. Cooking gas prices are: 9.225 million cordobas for a 10-lb tank; 24.796 million cordobas for a 25-lb tank; and 91.184 million cordobas for a 100-lb tank.

PLI Sets Conditions for 25 Feb Participation

PA2801215691 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Jan 91 p 4

[Roberto Larios report]

[Excerpt] The Independent Liberal Party [PLI] president, Dr. Wilfredo Navarro, has said that Dr. Virgilio Godoy and at least five parties of the National Opposition Union [UNO] will not participate in the government festivities slated for 25 February if President Violeta Chamorro does not comply with at least three conditions.

These conditions are: The release of UNO members and former contras who have been arrested for the murder of several policemen in Jalapa; the immediate submission of a budget for the vice presidency of the Republic, as approved by the Ministry of the Presidency; and "putting an end to the reprisals against UNO officials and national assembly workers who are being dismissed" by new assembly President Alfredo Cesar.

The PLI president showed BARRICADA a copy of a letter sent two days ago to President Chamorro by the Conservative Popular Alliance, the Communist Party of Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, the PLI, and the Liberal Party of Nicaragua in which they requested a meeting with Mrs. Chamorro to discuss the conditions for their participation in the celebrations. [passage omitted]

UNO Reportedly Weaker in Assembly Commissions

PA2901011891 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1231 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] According to a report released by the National Assembly yesterday, the National Opposition Union [UNO] has become weaker in the Assembly's 16 commissions because there are only 20 deputies who support Vice President Virgilio Godoy.

In the first commission, which is in charge of defense and government, only Eli Altamirano of the Communist Party and the group backing Godoy remain. The rest of the commission members belong to either the group led by Alfredo Cesar or the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

In another leading commission, the justice commission, the only UNO members left are Dr. Cairo Manuel Lopez and Dr. Nardo Sequeira, who are both important members of the Let's Save Democracy movement.

* Support for Missiles to FMLN Criticized

91P40115A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Jan 91 p 3

[Sofia Montenegro commentary]

[Text] There can be no question that the Salvadoran people have the inalienable right to defend themselves from criminal bombardment by the Salvadoran Army. Nor can there be any question that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has the right to conduct arms deals necessary for its cause. Our solidarity with the Salvadoran people is not only a duty; it is a right. I believe that everyone, and here I mean revolutionaries and those people who are not revolutionaries but who are decent people, is in agreement on these points.

However, I believe that some comrades confuse what is just with what is legal regarding the missiles incident because the argument is over whether the ends justify the means.

In opinions I have heard and in discussions in which I have participated it has been argued that the removal of the missiles from the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] is morally correct, though illegal, because; a) it is a just cause and; b) it is the result of a joint action carried out by people with impeccable revolutionary credentials. Additional justification for such action, as well as apologetic arguments, generally revolve around the circumstances, both FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] and FMLN; double yankee standards; this government's bourgeois character; the criminal nature of the Cristiani government, etcetera. Many of these arguments are reasonable and even just; however, by means of this same logic, the EPS reaction is paradoxically condemned as injust and immoral.

Let us look at the facts themselves. Given the deep ties of fraternity and solidarity with the FMLN, was it ethical to steal from the EPS? Is it morally correct for a guerrilla army to violate the sovereignty of a country for which another revolutionary army is responsible? What ever happened to the political and moral responsability of FMLN cadres to safeguard the interests of the Nicaraguan revolution? Where is the respect due to obligations, decisions, and circumstances of the FSLN and EPS?

I wonder what many comrades would think if FSLN cadres went to Havana to remove weapons from Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. It would never occur to anyone that such a thing could take place! Everyone would think that it showed a total lack of respect and disloyalty. Furthermore, everyone would find the probable Cuban reaction to such an event perfectly understandable. Why then do some think that a similar action against the EPS is legitimate?

I believe that this reaction is a reflection of the grave doubt among the Sandinist rank and file toward the ambiguity of the revolutionary leadership, given the new political context resulting from the electoral defeat. This attitude should serve as a warning to the leaders regarding the need for communication, openness, information, and analysis that revolutionary forces require. I also feel that some opinions published in the media lack objectivity, as well as professionalism as far as journalists are concerned, by putting forth their personal dislikes and their own political inclinations when evaluating the facts. This also lacks ethics, which involves having a sense of fairness.

An issue which has implications in the political and legal realm and in international relations has become an ideological topic, where evaluating the removal of the weapons has become the scale on which political commitment and revolutionary militancy are weighed; where the coherence of principles is measured by the activity of a group of people who take part in an action which is clearly against the law; which goes against the interests of a party of which they call themselves members; who take part in an action which is counterproductive to both the Nicaraguan as well as Salvadoran revolutions. Principles cannot be invoked when the terms of normal relations between revolutionary organizations are broken.

The people's will and the very action of the revolution created a Rule of Law which is and must be respected by everyone, and above all by the revolutionaries. Not respecting the Rule of Law means following a double standard. A double standard cannot be justified in revolutionaries who accuse the enemy of having a double standard.

The premise that the ends justify the means only leads to relativism and thereby to confusion. Worse yet, it leads precisely to what we most fear: the abandonment of principles.

* Restructuring, Future of FSLN Discussed

91CA0054A Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Dec 90 p 2

[Danilo Aguirre Solis commentary]

[Text] Debate has begun anew on the future of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] as Nicaragua's leading political force.

The time is right. The frustrations and recriminations caused by the electoral defeat have subsided, and what is more, we have made headway along the path of establishing ourselves as a government alternative within the new geopolitical context.

We think, however, that the order of the discussion is being altered, as emphasis is once again being placed on the program that the FSLN will have to uphold before the rules are established for its new bylaws and leadership bodies.

We feel that it will not be very complicated to reaffirm the principles of the FSLN and adapt them to what we have to offer as a program and political environment for the Nicaraguan people.

The other task is a bit more complex, since it could clash with private interests, whether individual or group, or with absolutist or acquiescent positions that stem from biased approaches to the inner workings of the FSLN.

Two Objective Situations

It is a fact that the electoral defeat triggered an explosion of criticism that fell mostly on the National Directorate: to a lesser extent on individuals and more heavily on the collective style of command and on the favoritism shown towards groups that made poor use of the power they were given.

In other words, there are three sources of such criticism. The criticism that made itself heard before the defeat, the criticism that has never been voiced before owing to simple political inertia, and the criticism that had given rise to or backed the errors of the past and then tried to cover itself up in the present with a false purism or a purism that at least did not square with the responsibilities for what was being criticized.

Today, we can no longer fool ourselves. We must accept two basic premises for the organizational restructuring of the FSLN:

First, no matter what the organization, the origin of its rank and file and top echelon must be democratic, with horizontal decision-making bodies and with a standing executive organ that is free of messianic overtones and broadly deliberative.

Second, it is undeniable and even highly gratifying, I would say, that the National Directorate remains the most charismatic body and the major source of long-standing confidence for the Sandinist people.

On the basis of these two premises, two kinds of solutions are also possible.

Unilateral Solution

If the party is organized in such a way that the National Directorate is eliminated or if changes, additions, or substitutions are made in it, a new FSLN could emerge that would have a long way to go before it became a

majority party. We are not discrediting this option; we are merely envisaging its political future.

If, in contrast, on the basis of the National Directorate's influence on the masses, the party winds up organizing itself among the rank and file with a large degree of democracy but retains the National Directorate as the permanent top echelon of decision-making when Congress and the Assembly are in recess, then the party may be insuring that it remains massive at present, but it will neither cure its current internal wounds nor insure against a split in the future.

Dialectic Solution

In contrast, if we move towards a solution that combines the real, positive aspects with the need for a no less real democracy in organization and decision-making, the FSLN may emerge stronger and more together as a political party than it was on 25 February.

In spite of the electoral defeat, it is highly gratifying that in totally free elections more than 40 percent of the people voted for a political-military organization that was born in the early 1960's as an enlightened group of students, workers, and peasant farmers, which later took power by way of arms and coped with ten years of revolutionary frustrations while confronting a bloody counterrevolutionary war.

To this we must add that in 1964 Carlos Fonseca himself, given the small opportunity that Rene Schick provided, thought at one point about the possibility of a legal Sandinist Party. Carlos understood that the time was not right for such a move and reaffirmed his goal of overthrowing the dictatorship by arms. We believe today that the space that Carlos thought he saw is there, with the legal presence of a party that is by far the largest and best organized in Nicaragua.

The National Directorate must therefore be kept intact. However, a leadership elected by the Congress from among the party's finest officials must head the Sandinist Assembly and function as the executive leadership body. Some members of the National Directorate belong in it, of course, at the same rank as its other members.

The Congress, for its part, will be able to define the role and place of the National Directorate in the organizational chart.

In another article we will discuss what we feel the role of the FSLN ought to be before the Congress, especially with regard to the Sandinist bloc in the National Assembly.

Panama

Islamic Leader Says No Domestic Arab Terrorists

PA2801195891 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 27 Jan 91 p 39

[Yali Enrique Pitti report]

[Text] Dr. Abdul Khabeer Muhammad, leader of the Islamic Movement in Latin America and the Caribbean, has told EL SIGLO that he is sure that no Arab or Muslim terrorist groups exist in Panama because, if there were any, they would already have let their existence be felt. "We believe that Allah controls life and death."

The leader said that although the Panamanian Muslims disagree with Saddam Husayn's armed actions in the Persian Gulf conflict, they "cannot accept the intervention of U.S. troops in the Middle East."

Muhammad said that the war in the Gulf will have serious repercussions on all Panamanians and cause them to suffer. The U.S. leaders, however, do not believe this because they consider themselves part of a new Roman empire.

He also said that whether Husayn is right or wrong, he has the support of the Arab people. Everyone in the Islamic world supports the Iraqi president because many governments reject the U.S. Armed Forces' presence in the Persian Gulf.

He said that he does not believe that Panama, as a result of the war in the Gulf, has become a strategic target because of its geographical position. "None of us believes such a thing, but we know that this is what some media have been saying to create hysteria," he said.

Dr. Muhammad indicated that the recent increases in the price of gasoline and petroleum products is not justified because the price of hydrocarbons is not established by the producers but by the large oil corporations.

He added that many businessmen have profited from the Gulf crisis. "They always do because this is the usual practice in capitalism. They did it in 1973 when they said that OPEC was responsible for the price increases. Ten years later, however, studies have shown that it was the oil companies themselves who had raised the prices."

Endara Reflects on Remarks Concerning Mexico

PA2801195091 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Jan 91 p 1-A

[Manuel Alvarez Cedeno report]

[Text] "Although I hope that my remarks will not unleash a diplomatic conflict with Mexico, what is done is done and my words reflect the feelings of the Panamanian people," President Guillermo Endara said on 26 January.

During an interview at the Balboa sports field on the subject of his having described the Mexican Government's actions as blackmail, Endara said that even though he used "strong words, what is done is done."

Endara had described Mexico's proposal to sell oil to Panama in exchange for a safe-conduct for former BNP [National Bank of Panama] Manager Rafael Arosemena

as blackmail. Arosemena has sought asylum at the Mexican Embassy; he is charged with appropriating over $21 million.

Nevertheless, Foreign Minister Julio Linares has apologized for the president's remarks, which may have offended Mexico.

Endara, who was accompanied by his wife, pointed out that he was only acting as spokesman for the majority of Panamanians and that "he is very unhappy with the way Mexico—of whom the Panamanian people are very fond—is treating Panama, which deserves the Mexican people's brotherhood.

The president also remarked that meetings between the government and the three Rio Group delegates who visited Panama were positive because for the first time the group listened to the position of the Panamanian people.

He pointed out the delegates from Chile, Venezuela, and Colombia must have noted, for example, that the crimes perpetrated by the individuals who have sought asylum at the Peruvian Embassy have been described as common crimes.

Former Majors Gonzalo Gonzalez and Heraclides Sucre, charged with the execution of their former military comrades who attempted to depose Noriega, have sought asylum at the Peruvian Embassy.

The Panamanian president stated that he hopes Panama's differences with Mexico will be resolved at the meeting with the Rio Group.

Calderon Promises To Abide by Electoral Law

PA2601223191 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Jan 91 p 1-A

[Elkilia Santos report]

[Text] First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon has promised to "strictly abide" by the decree which forbids public officials with authority and jurisdiction from participating in political campaigns, even though "he disagrees with the electoral tribunal magistrates' interpretation" of the Constitution and the electoral code.

Arias, who is also minister of government and justice, explained that both the constitution and the electoral code may be interpreted in many ways, saying he "disagrees with what the tribunal has done, but I respect it because the tribunal is in charge of defining the rules of the game concerning the electoral process."

According to the high-ranking official, it is one thing to support a candidacy during work hours, using official resources and in your role as an authority, and it is another thing to do it as president of a party.

Low Voter Turnout Reported

PA2801201591 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Jan 91 p 1A

[Text] According to reports from most of the precincts where elections were held, a small number of citizens exercised their right to vote.

Nevertheless the Electoral Tribunal [TE] has yet to supply electoral figures, voter turnout percentages, or results per electoral circuit as of 0130 today, despite its promises to the contrary.

TE President Guillermo Marquez Amado said, however, that the Panamanian people acted with a high civic spirit during the partial elections to choose 160 representatives, nine legislators, and nine councilmen. The president said that equal conditions prevailed for all the candidates participating in the elections.

Referring to the low voter turnout which prevailed in these elections, Marquez said that this happened because it was not a presidential election, meaning that they were partial elections. He added that "a low voter turnout is not important" for the TE because the essential thing is that equal conditions should prevail for all the candidates and that the vote tally should be guaranteed.

Christian Democratic President Ricardo Arias Calderon said that the country and democracy were strengthened through the partial elections organized by the TE "because we proved that a new electoral history has begun."

He added that progress was achieved in the electoral sector and the elections were normally carried out without violence.

Arias Calderon noted some TE mistakes, for example the fact that some polling tables opened behind schedule. As for the low voter turnout, he said that this happened because it was not a national election in which the people believe that the basic orientation of public power is at stake.

According to Arias Calderon, those who point out that the low voter turnout is due to the people's displeasure with the government have a political—rather than a political science—view. He added that "significantly low voter turnout occurs anywhere in the world whenever the Presidency and the legislative majority are not at stake."

Most of the international observers who came to Panama for the elections agreed that the event was correctly held.

Spanish Deputy Fernando Suarez stated his views: "There was an even lower voter turnout than I expected—certainly less than in the elections I witnessed in 1989—but fortunately the situation was entirely different from the previous one."

"The difference is very favorable, and I hope the Panamanian people will realize that this system is better and

that the democracy which they are building will be consolidated in the future," the Spanish deputy said.

Meanwhile Hans Funke, a member of the International Human Rights Organization in Germany, said that during his tour he was able to observe that "everything was calm although there was a low voter turnout, plus occasional accusations that the elections were not correct—but there were really no grounds for this. We personally verified this."

During the elections, the candidates for the Democratic Revolutionary Party and the Labor Party in the communities of San Felipe, Pocri, and Paritilla withdrew their candidacies, claiming an alleged electoral fraud supported by the TE.

Furthermore, during a tour through different areas of the capital, LA PRENSA was able to ascertain the Panamanian people's limited interest in the elections.

Beaches close to the capital were filled with hundreds of people who spent the day sunning themselves. More than 4,000 Panamanians arrived at the Amador Causeway early in the morning, according to reports from a sentry in that recreation center. The mayor's decree banning the sale of alcoholic beverages was violated in most of those public places.

A very low voter turnout was observed in the coastal areas, particularly in circuit 3-3 which includes the districts of Portobelo, Santa Isabel, Chagres, Donoso, and some communities within circuit 3-1 which comprise the communities within Colon District's jurisdiction.

Lima Views Security Agencies, Weapon Regulations

PA2801230491 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Jan 91 pp 1, A-2

[Text] Deputy Government and Justice Minister Ramon Lima has announced that the Government and Justice Ministry has given security agencies and arms importers 90 days to comply with two executive decrees regulating those operations.

Decree No. 1 of 2 January 1991, which was published in the official gazette on 15 January, regulates the operation of security agencies. Decree No. 2, regulating the importation of weapons, was published on 17 January.

Regarding the way in which the business of security agencies has been regulated, Lima said that "they will be under the supervision of the Government and Justice and the Commerce and Industries Ministries, as well as the Judicial Technical Police."

Some of the requirements demanded from the owners of security agencies are having an insurance policy for civil responsibility for up to $50,000 as well as life insurance policies for its employees. In addition, the agencies cannot have more than 250 guards without the authorization of the Government and Justice Ministry.

It was also established that private security agents will not wear uniforms similar to the ones worn by the National Police or the National Air or Marine Services, Lima noted.

Regarding the importation of weapons, Lima said that the permits will have to be obtained before the shipments arrive in the country. Furthermore, the importers must present a monthly report indicating the amount of weapons stored, the number and respective identification of the buyers, and the number of the weapons permit held by each person.

The deputy government and justice minister added that the weapons importers are prohibited from storing the imported weapons in depots not authorized by the Government and Justice Ministry. He added that no person will be allowed to have a permit for more than three weapons.

Lima announced that the president has been asked to appoint Jaime Abad, who holds a masters' degree in criminal justice and police administration, to be in charge of supervising the security agencies and those dealing with the importation of weapons.

Government, UK Discuss Drug Trafficking Controls

PA2801044791 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Jan 91 p 12-A

[Manuel Alvarez Cedeno report]

[Text] Foreign Relations Minister Julio Linares has confirmed that Panama is holding talks with the UK about the signing of a treaty to fight crimes related to drug trafficking.

During a meeting with the local press, Linares said that Panama is willing to sign a treaty with other countries for fighting drug trafficking as long as Panama's interests are not harmed.

Panama and the United States are at present negotiating a Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement, although there are differences in the negotiations since the U.S. Government has proposed that the treaty should also contemplate punishing tax crimes which are not considered illegal in Panama.

Linares clarified that despite the fact that an agreement with the United States has not yet been possible, this does not mean that "we cannot come to an agreement with Britain."

He also added that the talks being held with Britain show that Panama is interested in stopping drug trafficking and money laundering.

Change of Command Ceremony Held in Cocle Province

PA2601020591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 23 Jan 91 p 8-A

[Text] "The principal duty of the national police is to be subordinate to the civilian authorities because we, as a security organization within a democratic government, are dependent on the people for whom we work to safeguard their lives, property, and honor, an action which will allow us to gain the support and approval of citizens in general," said Ebrahim Asvat, provisional general director of the national police, during a change of command ceremony held at the Cocle Province police zone yesterday.

The ceremony, which was held at the installations of that public security institution, was attended by Cocle Province Governor Generoso Carles, Penonome Mayor Sandino Camargo, Legislator Gabriel Arosemena, and Deputy Police Director Major Dario Arrue.

The retiring director of the Cocle Province, Maj. German Pinzon, asked for all the necessary support from civilian authorities for his successor, Captain Oriel Gonzalez, who expressed his desire to work for the welfare of the Cocle community.

In his speech Governor Carles reiterated his support for the national police and said that up to now positive actions have been taken which have directly benefitted the population.

Finally, Asvat held a working meeting with the province's civilian authorities and later toured the local police installations.

Argentina

Central Bank Orders Bank Holiday for 29, 30 Jan

PY2801235891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2316 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jan (NA)—It has been officially reported that the Central Bank has ordered a bank and money exchange holiday on 29 and 30 January.

The Central Bank noted, however, that financial institutions will make retirement and pension payments and will collect taxes and utility bills.

Economy Minister Cancels Trip to Economic Forum

Cites Exchange Market 'Difficulties'

PY2801134891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1312 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jan (NA)—An Economy Ministry spokesman announced this morning that Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez has decided not to leave this afternoon for the Swiss city of Davos, where an international economic forum is to take place. Diego Estevez, chief of the ministry's advisers, will be Argentina's representative at the forum.

According to the spokesman, the minister decided not to travel due to the difficulties the exchange market is experiencing.

Gonzalez, Staff Submit Resignations

PY2901002691 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0002 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jan (NA)—Presidential Spokesman Humberto Toledo has confirmed that Economy Minister Erman Gonzalez and all the members of his staff today submitted their resignations to President Carlos Menem, who is currently considering them.

Toledo told NA that "no announcements will be made until tomorrow."

Menem Views Resignations, Economic Situation

PY2901023091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0010 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jan (TELAM)—Commenting on the resignations submitted tonight by members of the economic team, sources close to President Carlos Menem said the president believes that our economic situation is good because the Central Bank currently has $3 billion in foreign currency and $2 billion in gold in its reserves. According to these sources, Menem noted that the Central Bank had less than $100 million in reserves when he was inaugurated.

Regarding the upward trend of the U.S. dollar, the sources said this is happening because the Central Bank made a very drastic decision 10 days ago when it barred provincial banks in the red from engaging in call money loan operations.

The president believes, the sources said, that major private banks were taking loans at eight percent monthly and giving loans to provincial banks at 40 percent monthly.

In Menem's opinion, the U.S. dollar exchange rate has increased due to the Central Bank decision to ban provincial banks in the red from engaging in call money operations. Because they can no longer profit from the call money business, private banks have diverted these funds into the dollar market.

Cavallo Recalled From Caracas Meeting by Menem

PY2901110491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1024 GMT 29 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Jan (NA) — Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo arrived just after 0800 [1000 GMT] at Ezeiza International Airport and is now travelling to the Olivos Residence to meet with President Carlos Menem.

The foreign minister was urgently recalled by Menem and has returned early from the city of Caracas where he was participating in a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Rio Group.

Social Security Under Secretary Resigns 24 Jan

PY2501224091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Jan 91 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA)—Social Security Undersecretary Santiago de Estrada confirmed his resignation yesterday following a meeting with President Carlos Menem while National Health Administration (ANSSAL) director Luis Barrionuevo is expected to step down in the next few hours with Planning Secretary Moises Ikonicoff tipped to replace him, official sources disclosed last night.

De Estrada blamed restrictions imposed by the Economy Minister for his departure. Sources said he was especially upset by the government's alleged decision not to increase pensions in the next two months. [passage omitted]

National Health Administration Director Replaced

PY2501224891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—National Health Administration (ANSSAL) director Luis Barrionuevo finally resigned yesterday and Planning Secretary Moises Ikonicoff was immediately named to replace him, it was officially announced last night. The resignation of Barrionuevo—a controversial labour leader and staunch supporter of President Carlos Menem—followed several days of speculation on his imminent replacement within the framework of the recent Cabinet shake-up. Barrionuevo

recently made headlines saying bluntly that in Argentina "nobody makes money working."

Menem on 'Moral Emergency,' Anticorruption Plan

PY2501024491 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2301 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Speech to the nation by President Carlos Saul Menem from Government House in Buenos Aires—live]

[Text] Argentine people: I want to be very brief and very clear in my message. I am addressing the Argentine people to announce a number of concrete and resolute decisions I have personally made to continue the all-out battle against a true scourge that is undermining our unified coexistence: corruption.

Corruption is nothing new in Argentina. The government I am heading has decided to submit this problem to a debate, not with hypocrisy but with the firm conviction to fight against it strongly.

From the very first moment of my administration, I have said that I consider corruption to be an act of treason against the fatherland. I still have the same idea, and more than ever I am convinced and am aware that everything we have done so far in this regard, although we have done a lot, is still insufficient. It is not enough.

State reform, deregulation, the elimination of bureaucratic barriers, and the major transfer... transparency [corrects himself] of our economic system are pillars to be used to change fraudulent situations which have buried us in backwardness and decline.

This change of system will help to unveil disguised interests that have flourished for years and decades, to the detriment of all the people.

However, this change is obviously not enough. Let no one be deceived. This is a problem of a system designed for crime. But it is also a problem involving men and examples, concrete examples which must first of all be set by the leaders themselves and even more so by the government itself.

There is a state of suspicion among all Argentines which I consider to be unacceptable for building a common future. As president of the nation, I am also fully aware that the solution does not depend exclusively on this administration. Our contribution is the firm political decision. The legislative and judicial branches, the private sector, and all Argentines personally have a common responsibility in this task.

I call upon all these sectors, without avoiding any personal responsibility, because I am convinced that the government, more so than the president of the Republic, must be the first to fight this and to provide examples for the rest of our community.

Consequently, I want to reaffirm before all my fellow citizens that I take up this cause as a national cause, a personal cause, a cause in which there is no room for political friendships as there is no room for any type of commitments, sectorial speculation, or internal or party speculation.

My only commitment is to the people and to decency. This decency is represented by millions of good Argentine workers, many of which have fallen into a state of incredulousness, which is more dangerous than the economic or material crisis we are experiencing.

To recover this credibility we need concrete facts, not only words. I therefore want to announce to the people a set of initial measures that I have adopted and which will go into effect at this very moment, because this war will not be won with speeches but with decisions.

Here are the measures that have been adopted:

1. The annual budget given to the national prosecutor's office for administrative investigations is hereby doubled to allow this office to implement a profound restructuring process to fulfill its objectives. To this end, this office will be granted the appropriate professional and technical instruments necessary to make it more effective and to expedite the process of making it operate normally for once and for all. This measure is being adopted within the framework of the decision to create the national Justice Ministry, through which the government will promote the policies essential for transformation of our justice system.

2. The wealth of all executive branch officials must be revealed with maximum openness and clarity. For this reason, the following officials must make a thorough sworn declaration of goods within 15 days at the national government notary's office:

First is the president of the nation because he is also an Argentine citizen, and particularly because he must deal with his own personal obligations and assets. Likewise the ministers, secretaries, and under secretaries of the national executive branch; senior officials of self-supporting government organizations; directors and deputy directors of national or general sectors; managers, deputy managers, chiefs of departments or equivalent levels of the centralized and decentralized administration; federal trustees and their assistants; foreign service personnel and officials assigned to official missions aborad, either on a permanent or temporary basis; senior officers of the Armed Forces, the security and police organizations, and the federal penitentiary service; and all other personnel who handle public funds. Their sworn declarations must conform to the legal framework and are subject to the sanctions provided for by Decree No. 1639.

3. I also want to announce the decision to restructure the presidential advisory sector by reducing the number of advisers and reorganizing their roles to make them more effective and suitable, which is essential in this stage of transformation.

4. A public administration post is for service and not for privilege. For this reason, all political officials of the national executive branch will have to give up, within 48 hours, all types of privileged retirement systems as provided for by Article 75 of Decree No. 2476.

I have also ordered that a draft bill establishing the cancellation of these privileged retirement systems be submitted to the special sessions of the Honorable Congress for consideration.

5. The executive branch also urges the Honorable Congress to consider in special sessions the draft bill on administrative corruption which has already been submitted. It is an essential instrument for guaranteeing effectiveness and honesty in the fulfillment of public administration posts.

6. The executive branch has submitted for congressional consideration in special sessions the draft bill submitted by Senator Fernando de la Rua which refers to the control of private contributions to political parties and which was recommended by the Commission for the Recovery of Ethics Within Society and the State. This commission was also created by this government.

I want to note two special considerations on this subject: 1991 is an electoral year and the electoral campaigns must be open, with clear accounts, as happens in the world's must effective democracies. Economic support in an electoral process cannot corrupt any government decision or create doubts or misunderstandings in relationships between political parties and the economic sector.

This is an authentically revolutionary measure that requires tremendous efforts from our leaders in the political, union, and business sectors. We consider it an important point to begin recovering our leaders' credibility, regardless of their political leanings.

7. The current privatization process ordered by the national government will, as of this moment, be monitored by specialized international organizations. We hope to provide full openness in each of its stages and to be able to fulfill more effectively, and without suspicions, the outlined objectives, which are shared by an overwhelming majority of the Argentine citizens.

8. The government will reinforce the participation of agencies that specialize in establishing reference prices and monitoring, controlling, and analyzing state purchases for central and autonomous public administration and state companies. The main objective will be to avoid the overpricing frequently observed in the purchase of goods for the public sector, which have a negative effect on any economic streamlining plan.

9. Every month, beginning next week, I will contact each state comptroller and supervisory agency to personally learn about any irregular situation, difficulty, or investigation of any member of my government. This is why the Treasury's comptroller, the state companies' auditor, the national comptroller, the attorney general, and the national accounting court will be summoned to give a detailed report on any illegal behavior that must be completely investigated.

10. Finally, I clearly understand that the problem of corruption goes beyond the economic or punishment aspects and affects the cultural aspect. We must all defeat this aspect, both in the public and private sectors. Thinking about future generations, about the example our children will demand from us, and about the moral inheritance we will leave them, I instructed the education minister to implement, beginning with the next school year, education programs, with modern pedagogic criteria, on the negative aspects of administrative corruption and on ethical and moral values, which must be part of our youth's education. Towards this end, the Education Ministry will use broad criteria in choosing the top experts in various matters. The honorary advisory council made up of representatives of the entrepreneurial, church, and labor union sectors and of the social communication sector created by this administration will develop the proposals necessary to comply with this objective, which I also see as fundamental.

I have also ordered that the working group headed by Vice President Eduardo Duhalde and comprising Public Affairs Secretary Gustavo Beliz and Justice Deputy Secretary Cesar Arias supervise implementation of each one of these measures to ensure their effective enforcement.

Argentine sisters and brothers, this is not a series of merely technical measures to magically solve the problem. They are one more battle in a difficult, permanent struggle. This battle cannot, however, be a one-man battle. This flag must be hoisted in the light of deep solidarity. If Argentina does not undergo a great moral change, nothing will change.

Therefore, no one can feel that they have been fooled or have been excluded from these corruption charges. Corruption is the worst crime committed against a democracy. To put it clearly and more succinctly, I will say that democracy and corruption are two mortal enemies. With absolute sincerity, I emphasize that our institutions cannot be jeopardized by a lack of firmness in fighting this scourge. I feel that all Argentines support me in this effort, which must be our common effort. Beyond party divisions, beyond secondary interests, and beyond minor speculations, I am convinced we will win this fight. This is my intention and my commitment. The Argentine Republic is in a state of economic and social emergency, and we are all making a heroic effort to overcome this emergency. Humbly but firmly, I now declare the Argentine Republic in a state of moral emergency. I ask you to help me build, once and for all, a real country. For a politician or a president, it would have been much easier to avoid this issue now that the world is living out a critical drama as a result of the Persian Gulf conflict. I believe, however, that we cannot permanently tread the path of hypocrisy. The conflict is

a serious problem that also generates corruption. This is not, however, my way of seeing things. Argentina is contributing to the answer being given to the acts of a man who has chosen war over peace. This is why Argentina is contributing to ending this conflict, which is endangering the planet's future.

This attitude, this commitment of the Argentine Republic has been recognized and applauded, not only by a majority of the Argentines, but also by all countries in the world because we are committed to fighting this disease, this cancer, this scourge that injures and hurts us all to the end.

The difference between this administration and previous ones is that we at least have the courage to implement a series of measures to attenuate the effects of this disease that, I reiterate, causes so much damage to the country.

We are changing a system that does not meet our needs. Without a doubt, we are changing and cleansing the system. We are trying to eliminate all factors that create conditions for these situations because they are the cause of our stagnation and recession, and of the collapse in our community's moral standards.

We will repair all this, but it is not a task for one man or a group of men or political parties. This is a challenge for all Argentine citizens. I repeat: No one can look the other way when faced with this moral emergency. I ask you from deep in my heart, with all sincerity, with all humility, to support us in this endeavor. We need your responsible and serious support; these are two factors that the Republic needs and that we can all provide together. Thank you. May God bless you.

Air Force Plane Carrying Supplies Sent to Gulf

PY2801132891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1015 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jan (TELAM)—An Air Force Boeing 707 carrying food and medicine for victims of the Persian Gulf war is flying toward the conflict zone in accordance with a UN request for humanitarian aid.

The plane, under the command of Vice Commodore Mario Valle, left Ezeiza International Airport at 2005 and was seen off by Air Force Brigadier Carlos Gallo, chief of the Air Force Operations Command. The plane is heading for the Italian city of Pisa with food, medicine, and other aid for victims of the Middle East conflict.

The plane, which is also carrying six journalists, was sent at the request of Defense Minister Guido di Tella.

Seineldin Testimony to Armed Forces Council Noted

PY2901005091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1350 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jan (NA)—Colonel Mohamed Seineldin, retired, has revealed that he met with then President-elect Carlos Menem and proposed that Italo Luder or Humberto Romero head the Defense Ministry. Seineldin also asserted that the bloody 3 December uprising "had been planned since 1988."

In his long testimony before the Armed Forces Supreme Council, which was published in today's issue of PAGINA 12, Seineldin also revealed that Menem had offered him a role in the government, an offer he later turned down.

Seineldin also disclosed that there was an "act" that had been signed in agreement by Humberto Romero, then Army Commander in Chief General Isidro Caceres, General Pablo Skalani, and Menem himself, whereby about 10 "painted faces" officers were to be retired and "a slew of generals" were to be eliminated from the Joint Staff.

The leader of the "painted faces" group also revealed the existence, after the Villa Martelli revolt in December 1988, of an agreement which stipulated the retirement of then Army Commander in Chief General Dante Caridi "to end the division then existing" in the Army.

In his testimony to the Armed Forces Supreme Council, which sentenced him to life in prison and dismissed him from the Army following the events of last December, Seineldin harshly criticized the current government's military policy "for driving the Army to its destruction."

Seineldin also admitted that in his first meeting with Menem, before he assumed power as president, he asked Menem "to pardon the commanders" of the last de facto government and proposed General Caceres or General Skalani for the post of Army commander in chief.

Seineldin said Cesar Arias, the Justicialist Party legal representative, arranged the meeting with Menem, which took place "at a house in Buenos Aires" while Seineldin was being held under arrest at the 1st Regiment of Palermo following the events at Villa Martelli.

Referring to his meetings with Menem, Seineldin said that "after he was elected, he invited me to have a talk." At that time, Seineldin said, "I proposed Dr. Italo Luder or Dr. Humberto Romero to calm the waters in the Army, and Menem told me that it would be accepted."

Continuing his testimony, Seineldin said: "I then proposed the men to repair the institution: General Caceres as number one and General Skalani as number two." This proposal was also accepted.

After I asked for former commanders to be pardoned, Seineldin said, Menem asked me in turn: "Would you be upset if I also set Firmenich free?" My answer was, Seineldin said, "so that the institution will not be in jail, set him free."

Continuing his testimony, Seineldin said that Menem "had signed a document in which those points were set down, and Colonels Cortina, Diaz Loza, and Ramirez know about the text of that document."

Seineldin noted, however, that "the persecution, punishment, and dismissal of the men whom it was agreed should be retired began later, and I was attacked incessantly by the Joint Staff."

Seineldin also said that after the Villa Martelli revolt, a document was signed at a meeting attended by Romero, General Skalani, and Lieutenant General Solari stipulating that "the 10 main leaders of the latest uprisings, myself included, should be retired."

"Furthermore, General Caceres had promised to remove a number of generals who were hindering the integration of the institution and who had created controversies which impeded integration within the Joint Staff."

Seineldin said the document "was acknowledged by Dr. Menem and Humberto Romero," and he reported that "it was not complied with, General Skalani disappeared, and the punishments and dismissals then began."

Regarding Menem's offer "to participate in my government," Seineldin stated that he tried to create "a combat force to fight drug trafficking and guerrillas," as a result of which "I met with a lot of people who came to see me, Raul Granillo Ocampo among them." Seineldin added that "Cesar Arias had lunch with me once a week and I told him about the problems so he could report to Dr. Menem."

He also said that he met with "Dr. Gustavo Beliz, the interior minister, Dr. Anzorreguy, and Juan Bautista Yofre, who was a Military College cadet when I was a staff officer there," as well as with "deputies, senators, and Dr. Alberto Kohan."

Regarding the latest "painted faces" rebellion, Seineldin said "the operation had been ready since December 1988." Seineldin added that the movement's goal was "for a group of colonels to take over the Army and upgrade it so that it would take its place as defined by the Constitution: as the armed branch of the fatherland."

Seineldin admitted that previous evaluations pointed to "possible bloodshed," and he added that the revolt was caused by disagreements with the Army commander and members of the General Staff because "they provoked division because they lacked greatness and a spirit of selflessness."

Regarding the financing of the operation, Seineldin said "it was based on charity" and stressed that "no one put a penny into this operation."

Discussing the reasons behind the failure of the operation, Seineldin said "people under my orders did not want to shoot at their comrades," something that is sometimes necessary because "institutions come before individuals."

Seineldin concluded by assuming "total" responsibility for the rebellion even though he was "isolated and guarded." He said he "thought that they would take me out of my prison (in San Martin de los Andes) at the beginning of the operation."

Cavallo, Chile's Silva Cimma View Gas Pipeline

PY2801142691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0114 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 27 Jan (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo stressed tonight that we do not have sufficient background data to select a consortium to build a gas pipeline between the Neuquen Province Basin in Argentina and the central area of Chile. Therefore, he stated, we have charged the Binational Commission with preparing the data so a tender can be put out on the basis of set objectives.

Cavallo made these remarks during a news conference that he gave after meeting with his Chilean colleague, Enrique Silva Cimma. Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez and Jaime Toha, chief of the Chilean Energy Commission, also participated in the meeting. [passage omitted]

The Binational Commission, which has been charged with arrangements for the tender that will lead to construction of the pipeline, has made considerable progress in defining technical elements that will lead to the selection of a consortium, Gonzalez explained when he was asked about the task of the commission, which is made up of officials from the two countries. Gonzalez stated that sufficient objective elements have not yet been found to decide whether a tender should be put out.

The Chilean foreign minister said we are happy with the meeting's results, and we find that there is nothing obstructing the project.

Silva Cimma said this meeting was set up on the basis of a letter Cavallo sent me pointing out the need to seek an agreement on the topic. We fully agreed with him and we decided this meeting should be held to find an adequate solution, the minister stated. [passage omitted]

Embalse Nuclear Plant Resumes Operations 26 Jan

PY2801174591 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1303 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Cordoba, 28 Jan (TELAM) — The Embalse nuclear plant resumed operations during the night of 26 January and began supplying the national grid after having been shut down for maintenance, repairs, inspection, and the extraction of Cobalt 60.

This information was given to TELAM by the Public Relations Office of the nuclear plant, which is 120 km south of this capital. The plant resumed operations at 2113 [2313 GMT] on 26 January. It has now been operating commercially for seven years.

Bolivia

ELN Deems U.S. Facilities 'Military Targets'

PY2901001091 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Jan 91 p 7

[Text] The so-called Army of National Liberation (ELN) has released a communique which was made public last night. The communique states: "If Iraq and the Arab people are attacked, we will declare the diplomatic missions of the countries involved and the transnationals which serve as the means for imperialist exploitation in our country military targets."

The communique adds: Danger and the sacrifice of a single man or a people are not important when the destiny of humanity is at stake.

This group, which is considered illegal by state security organizations, delivered the communique to our mailbox. The communique also refers to the members of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] who were murdered on 15 January 1980 on Harrington Street during the dictatorship of Luis Garcia Meza and to the events that occurred on 5 December 1990 on Abdon Saavedra Street.

"Imperialism and its agents are pushing us to the struggle; there is no other choice than to prepare for it," states the communique. Condemning the possible war in the Persian Gulf, the statement calls on ELN "detachments, militants, and all its fighters to struggle with initiative and independence."

The communique adds: "U.S. imperialism is once again showing its disdain for life and the destiny of humanity. With the sole purpose of imposing its will, it is preparing to carry out a war with unpredictable consequences. The people's struggle for peace has begun. This is why all revolutionaries around the world must be prepared to hit where it hurts the most and where it is least expected. Imperialists must be attacked wherever they are to make them feel like hounded beasts."

Chile

Government Condemns 'Use of POW's' in Gulf War

PY2801182091 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Jan 91 p C 3

[All quotation marks as received]

[Excerpt] On 23 January, the Chilean Government condemned the use of POW's because this violates the most elementary human rights and the rules of civilized coexistence, and it asked the parties involved in the Persian Gulf conflict to respect international principles. This position was made known in a public declaration issued by the Foreign Ministry. The text follows:

"In view of the serious warlike incidents in the Persian Gulf, the Chilean Government once again reiterates its firm position that international law and UN resolutions must be respected as the only way of guaranteeing the reestablishment of peace."

"Within this framework, the Chilean Government is obliged, for humanitarian reasons, to condemn in the most energetic way the use of POW's, which violates the most elementary human rights and the rules of civilized coexistence."

"The Chilean Government reiterates the need for all parties involved in the Persian Gulf conflict to guarantee the unrestricted fulfillment of international laws on human rights, and especially, the Geneva Convention on the treatment of POW's." [passage omitted]

Police Director Says Iraqi Tourists Under Watch

PY2801181191 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] General Horacio Toro, retired, the director of the Investigations Police, has confirmed that two Iraqis have entered the country. He said that they are tourists and that the police are keeping them under watch.

[Begin recording] [Toro] Two Iraqis have entered Chile, one arrived here at the end of December 1990 and the other around mid-January 1991. One came from Sweden and the other from Brazil.

The Investigations Police and the Carabineros have coordinated their efforts and are keeping them under watch. I can tell you that the reports that they are terrorists or Husayn agents are mere speculation.

[Unidentified reporter] Why did they come to Chile?

[Toro] They entered Chile before the deadline set by the UN on Iraq expired. They entered like any other foreigner after being submitted to the normal border check by the international police. They are now in Chile. It has not been reported that they have left. We are now keeping them under prudent watch so that their visit does not produce negative repercussions. [end recording]

Bombs Explode at 2 Mormon Churches in Santiago

PY2801225691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Two Mormon churches have been damaged by terrorist attacks in southern Santiago. The first attack took place at 1791 Central America Street in San Ramon District. Several windows in the church were broken by the explosion. The second attack took place at 95 Fernandez Albano Street in La Cisterna District. Only two windows at the back of the church were damaged in that incident.

PPCh's Marin Says U.S. 'Meddling' in Politics

PY2801163791 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Gladys Marin, a member of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] political committee, has stated that the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] is discussing the possibility of including the PCCh in a pact for the eventual municipal elections.

Marin accused the U.S. Government of meddling in Chilean politics in that they are trying to get the CPPD to exclude the communists from this possible electoral coalition. She added that she believes that the truth will prevail.

Marin noted the activities carried out by the PCCh during the previous regime when they resorted to all forms of struggle, even the armed struggle, at a high cost that is not taken into account by the CPPD, which excludes the PCCh.

Gladys Marin reported that Chilean Ambassador to the USSR Clodomiro Almeyda has said that an accord with the PCCh is feasible and that the CPPD is discussing the possibility.

Moreover, the communists of Chile, Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia have demanded that Latin American countries propose initiatives to stop the war in the Persian Gulf and have voiced their support to the proposal for an international conference to solve the Middle East conflict.

The PCCh, in another statement, has criticized the current government for adopting a neo-liberal economic model that excludes vasts sectors of society.

The PCCh also criticizes the Supreme Court decision to place Military Court President Carlos Cerda on list number four [as heard], which is one step toward his dismissal.

New Leftist Group Faction Established 11 Jan

PY2501020591 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Jan 91 p C 4

[Text] The National Provisional Directorate [Direccion Nacional Provisoria], a new faction of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], stated on 11 January that it seeks "to recover the party's revolutionary strategy." It also discussed the disagreements that prompted the split at the first MIR political meeting held late in December 1990.

Luciano Vejar, a member of the new faction, has said MIR regional and structural organizations have decided to initiate a "deep-rooted process to rectify the party's political line, implemented by a Central Committee which has definitively given up the revolutionary positions advocated by the party."

According to Pedro Huerta, this new faction represents 90 percent of the real number of MIR supporters. He added: "The executive board members are the only ones who remain within the old MIR leadership."

Colombia

Foreign Minister on Gulf Crisis, Rio Group Gains

PA2801193191 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0200 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Fernando Jaramillo by Amparo Perez and Amparo Pelaez; place and date not given—recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Jaramillo]...the world. All countries should respect international law. If we impose the belief that the richest and largest country is authorized to take over the territories it wants by using force, then international law is finished.

[Perez] Actually, there were no negotiations to prevent the war. Is there still time to end the war?

[Jaramillo] There were no formal negotiations. Everyone traveled to Baghdad. There were envoys sent by Gorbachev, Mitterand, the pope, and others.

[Perez] They went there with their minds already made up. They were not ready to negotiate, were they?

[Jaramillo] No, but there were specific proposals, such as those made by Gorbachev and Mitterand, but they were rejected by Baghdad.

[Pelaez] Excuse me for interrrupting, but according to experts in international matters, those proposals were wishy-washy. For example, they keep saying that Mitterand, the pope, or the president and those people who had something to do with the start of the conflict, were unable to do absolutely anything. Their positions were more emotional than objective.

[Jaramillo] I am not sure of that. There were a number of serious proposals, including the one presented by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who also traveled to Baghdad. The proposals were based on the fact that international law and order had to be respected. They could not be based on the unending invasion of Kuwait. The order that had been illegally altered by Iraq could not be maintained. The UN Security Council resolutions had to be fulfilled. These were initially resolutions of peace in the sense that the withdrawal of the invading troops was being ordered. That was Resolution No. 660. The next resolution called for embargos to make Husayn withdraw from Kuwait. After all the attempts made in August, September, October, and November had failed, on 29 November, the necessary means were approved to restore the order that had been violated.

[Perez] When you raised your hand to vote for war, did you really feel what was coming?

[Jaramillo] I must be frank and say that I felt I was voting for the establishment of a series of options for Saddam Husayn so that he would withdraw from Kuwait or allow his people and economy to be subjected to great suffering. Therefore, I was giving a serious warning to Husayn. Either he leave the occupied territory and liberate Kuwait or he could be subjected to war. I was convinced up to the last moment—15 January—that we would reach a peaceful solution. Unfortunately, I was wrong and the war began the next day with a huge cost for the people of Kuwait and Iraq.

[Pelaez] Did you sit down to watch how the war began?

[Jaramillo] I had some prior information. On 16 January I was informed by our delegation in the United States that the process of attacks against Iraqi strategic defenses had begun. That was around 1600. Later on, at 1830, we were informed that bombings over Baghdad and Basrah had begun.

[Pelaez] There are people who say that the Molotov cocktail that was mixed with religious beliefs and oil could not be dealt with. A time bomb is created when these two things are mixed. It this not true?

[Jaramillo] We are facing a very serious situation because of it, precisely because of the explosive mixture between oil and the religion of the muslim people. However, I believe it is clear that there is no solidarity by the muslim communities with Saddam Husayn because ever since the crisis began, he has not handled the crisis very rationally. It was evident that he had to make clear gestures that he was going to withdraw from the occupied territory and he did not do so. He could not be allowed to have an improper advantage with the invasion because then we would be putting an end to the international order. Finally, the world had no other solution.

[Perez] What do you think about the fact that Germans built a bunker for Husayn, the British built hangars for his planes, and the Italians built his toys so that he could play war. Do you not think this is absurd? The gringos sold weapons to him. The Israelis did the same. It is really absurd.

[Jaramillo] A series of mistakes were made. I do not think there is anyone here who can cast the first stone and say he is free from sin. Everyone has made, in one way or the other, serious mistakes that are being paid for with the war.

[Pelaez] The secretary of state said this morning that Husayn was an intelligent and skillful person who was able to do all of these kinds of things.

[Perez] He is an intelligent person who is as skillful as he is crazy. What kind of person is Husayn to you? For many of us who see him from a distance, he seems to be a monster.

[Jaramillo] I think he has a little bit of everything. He is intelligent, and he is a leader. He became the leader of his country after being born in a poor neighborhood in a town near Baghdad. To be able to bring his message to his people with that strength, he must be a skillful and smart person, but he has done so by killing all his enemies, by paying the prices that were necessary to remain in power, and by eliminating those who stood in his way. Therefore, there is a mixture of everything. There is a mixture of great intelligence, great capability, and great evil.

[Pelaez] A sour leader, is he not?

[Jaramillo] That is true, and he now has the world in suspense. The fact is that all western and some eastern countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and other Gulf countries, have joined forces against him to restore the international order in the region. It is totally unacceptable to have a country, such as Iraq with the conventional forces it has, to begin occupying all the countries of the Persian Gulf. It would finally end up being the owner of...

[Perez, interrupting] The one-million-dollar question is when will the war end? The United States set a deadline, but the conflict is becoming more difficult all the time.

[Jaramillo] I believe this war has been characterized by a prevailing fact: there is a huge amount of news, but no information.

[Pelaez] It is a war of disinformation. There are two wars.

[Jaramillo] There is a lot of news. One hears U.S. television networks, local news, and lots of other news. There is tons of news, but no information.

[Perez] We also have the Western media's version. We have U.S. information, but we do not have information from the other side. We do not really know what the Iraqis think; we do not know much about their way of thinking.

[Jaramillo] That is true. We basically get all the information from the Western world. I mean, we are getting information from the coalition, as President Bush calls it. We do not have much information from Iraq even though the Iraqi news agencies are constantly being received and the information they are transmitting is being received. It is completely contradictory to reports released by the coalition. When one side says it has lost 18 planes, the other says it has shot down 250 planes.

[Pelaez] There is something which is worthy of comment. It was the U.S. initial euphoric handling of the war by saying that the U.S. Congress approved a motion to applaud President Bush; President Bush saying the United States had practically won the war; and the U.S. saying that 80 percent of the the Iraqi artillery had been defeated. It turned out to be just the opposite. Only 20 percent of the Iraqi artillery was defeated. The other 80 percent is intact.

[Jaramillo] There was certainly a feeling of triumph, especially on the first day. However, one must remember

that on subsequent days, all military chiefs and the U.S. defense secretary asked people to be cautious. He said the war was just beginning. He said it would be a difficult war. That was on the second or third day. After the initial euphoria, U.S. authorities warned that nothing had happened yet. They said we are just beginning a long and difficult war that will require a lot of effort and money from the U.S. people.

[Perez] You spoke of coalitions. Today all continents are forming blocs, but Latin America is not. What can be done?

[Jaramillo] We are making efforts in that regard. I believe they have been successful. The most successful effort for Colombia has been the creation of the Group of Three, which has been strengthened by the Presidency of Cesar Gaviria. In association with Carlos Andres Perez and Carlos Salinas de Gortari, we have given a great push to the Group of Three. We have reached agreements in the areas of energy; land, maritime, and air transportation; communications; and culture.

[Perez] Is it a strong bloc that can allow us in situations such as this to...

[Jaramillo, interrupting] I do not think we can aspire to become the first world protagonists at this time because we do not have the economic resources, the size, or the geographic position. I would say we are fortunate. I believe the cost of being a world leader is extremely high. I believe that Colombia's role in the continent is serious and respectable. It has a well-balanced economy. It has enormous potential to develop itself and provide welfare for all of its citizens. Therefore, I would say within this context that Colombia is doing a good job.

[Pelaez] A meeting of foreign ministers will soon be held in Rio de Janeiro. Can the Rio meeting become an element of pressure so that in case of a world war or disaster—which is already upon us—at least we can be self-sufficient in oil and ship the little we produce to other countries? We should first supply ourselves and then we can think of supplying the rest of the world. What do you think?

[Jaramillo] Yes, this is one of the topics that will be covered at the foreign ministers' meeting next Monday, 28 January. The oil supply issue will be on the agenda. I am going to be accompanied by oil experts from Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] who will also actively participate in the meeting and in the technical talks that will take place on Monday. Important steps have already been taken by Venezuela and Mexico, who will guarantee their supply of oil for Central America. There were discussions between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela for the supply of oil and gasoline to English-speaking Caribbean countries and now this topic will be discussed on Monday. We will discuss the supply of oil for all Latin American countries.

[Perez] You recently had the opportunity to meet with the pope. The government has shown a willingness to negotiate a concordat. We know that for several years, many presidents, such as President Turbay, have told the pope that he wanted to negotiate and the pope said he agreed as long as there was not too much publicity. He did not want a public debate on the matter. What is the government's position today?

[Jaramillo] It has not changed much. I believe the position is the same because...[changes thought] I see that the willingness of the pope to solve this conflict with the Colombian Government and society does exist. He said this to me during the meeting I held with him. It was a very cordial meeting. It lasted over 30 minutes and we talked about the Colombian situation. We talked about the areas of conflict with regard to the concordat. We agreed that the commissions set up by the Vatican and the Colombian Government should begin their meetings as soon as possible to resolve this conflict.

[Perez] Did he ask you not to stir up public opinion too much? Does the church think that if we negotiate a concordat, the relations with the church are over?

[Jaramillo] The pope obviously did not talk about public opinion. He made a very objective and clear analysis of the situation. Among other things, I told him that Colombia did not want anything exceptional. We wanted the same treatment given to Italy, France, Portugal, and Spain.

[Pelaez] What areas of conflict exist right now. If one mentions the world concordat, everyone is frightened. Why are there areas of conflict. Why could an agreement not be reached on the ideas?

[Jaramillo] The areas of conflict are basically three. The first concerns the civilian aspects of a Catholic marriage, which means that when one marries in the Catholic Church, it immediately has civilian effects. We have proposed that the relations between a parishioner and his Church should be completely separated from the Colombian Government. The state should have no involvement in areas of morals or ethics. Parishioners should handle the relations with their Church as they desire. In the same manner, citizens should handle their relations with the state according to the Constitution and laws. They should be separated.

[Pelaez] Why is there so much fear to speak about this topic with the Colombian Church?

[Jaramillo] The problem is between the Vatican and the Colombian Government. The relations are between two sovereign states.

[Perez] Neither of the two wants to give in.

[Jaramillo] That is not true. I believe that is why talks are being held. That is why we are holding talks and negotiations. We want to find a middle point just as it happened with other Catholic countries. These countries had to reach agreements. If other countries reached agreements, why is Colombia unable to reach agreements. Colombia can also do so. It will also do so.

[Pelaez] Will it do so in this administration?

[Jaramillo] I hope we can reach a solution in this administration. I am very optimistic. I hope this point that is adversely affecting the relations between the Vatican and the Colombian Government can disappear.

[Perez] What Colombians want to know right now is when will divorce become an institution in Colombia?

[Jaramillo] I believe that if we are successful in the talks between the Vatican and the Colombian Government, we can solve this problem.

[Pelaez] This year?

[Jaramillo] Yes.

[Pelaez] Do you promise?

[Jaramillo] I cannot promise that because the negotiations between both sides depends on the willingness of both sides, but I am seeing that both sides are determined to reach an agreement and resolve the problem. It makes no sense to me that Colombians, who want to be divorced, have to go to any neighoring country—such as Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, or Dominican Republic—to find a solution to their problem. The only place where they cannot find a solution to their problem is here in Colombia.

[Pelaez] Being married without being married.

[Jaramillo] It makes no sense. Why do we have to be an exception. We should not be the exception. We have to be like the rest. We do not want to be the exception, but we do not want to be anything less than the average.

[Pelaez] Has there been a little bit of neglect by the church with the respect it deserves?

[Jaramillo] It is difficult to make a judgment, but I believe times are changing.

[Pelaez] We see that President Turbay spoke about it, but Presidents Bethancourt and Barco forgot about it. Now President Gaviria is again bringing it back to the table.

[Jaramillo] I believe it responds to a need of Colombian society. Many people in Colombian society cannot solve their problems because of this. There comes a time when a marriage must end, then it has to be dissolved in a civilian court. As for Catholic issues, it is a personal problem of each one with his Church.

[Pelaez] We are going to take a break for commercials now.

[Perez] A lot has been spoken about the Church. Is the war good for us or not?

[Jaramillo] In the short run, we have made some profits because of the higher oil prices. If the war goes on for a longer time and begins to hurt international markets, we are going to be adversely affected because the exports of our perishable products—such as flowers and tropical fruits to Europe—will be adversely affected. I do not think there is a good war. This war will have terrible consequences for the world's economies and we are included. There may be some short-term gains, but in the medium and long term, the war will be harmful for us, as all wars are.

[Pelaez] We wanted to end this program on a happy note. What has been most difficult for you to handle: being a public works minister or a foreign minister with a war that is just beginning.

[Jaramillo] I believe they are two very important ministries. I believe the duties one performs as public works minister—such as helping out the community—cannot be compared to any other duty. The importance of the Foreign Ministry and Colombia's presence in all international forums is just as important.

[Perez] Well, this was our distinguished guest of the day in this program. Thank you very much Foreign Minister Jaramillo. Thank you Amparo Pelaez and good evening.

Ecuador

Central Labor Union Calls For General Strike

PA2901003791 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0035 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Quito, 27 January (DPA)—The Sole Workers Front, made up of Ecuador's three central labor organizations, called today for a general strike on 6 February to protest the harsh economic measures adopted by the government. The country has had demonstrations ever since the measures were announced on 24 January. The "combative" 24-hour strike was agreed to after two days of deliberations by the top labor leadership, which is controlled by leftist parties that oppose the government of social democrat Rodrigo Borja.

Protests have been prompted by the measures adopted by the government. These measures include a six-percent currency devaluation, a 15-percent increase in fuel, and a 25-percent increase in mass transit fares. The government explained that the measures, which were unexpected and have been criticized by diverse sectors, had to be taken because of the need to increase exports and to compensate for the reduction in revenues due to the decrease in tariffs, which, as of 1 February, will range from five to 35 percent over the value of the merchandise.

Violent street demonstrations, organized by leftist organizations and headed by students, began on 25 January in Quito. Even business leaders have harshly criticized the measures, describing them as "untimely and unnecessary." The measures were announced two weeks ago after a 25-percent salary adjustment was ordered; however, this figure is regarded as insufficient because the inflation rate for 1990 was 49.2 percent.

The labor front said that the general strike will be preceded by "mass rallies" to "tell the regime the people are tired of unpopular measures."

Peru

Shining Path Said Responsible for Airport Attack

PY2501195491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1917 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, 25 Jan (TELAM-ANSA)—According to preliminary reports, at least one person was killed, 10 were wounded, and 15 vehicles were damaged by a car bomb that went off at the Jorge Chavez International Airport in Lima, the use of which was recently restricted by U.S. authorities because it lacked the necessary security measures.

Preliminary reports stated that the car bomb went off in the parking lot in front of the airport building, where the police had stepped up security measures this past week.

The Maoist Shining Path group phoned ANSA and immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Minister Hurtado Reaffirms IMF-Approved Plan

PY2801171991 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister and Economy Minister Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller has reasserted in Washington that the economic plan approved by the IMF is the same that was made known to the Peruvian people after the new government assumed power.

Minister Hurtado Miller said that with the approval of the 1991-92 economic program, the country has taken the first, and perhaps the most difficult, step toward rejoining the international financial community.

He added that the second stage of the program calls for the immediate formation of a group to support our country so as to facilitate the $800-million financing needed during the present fiscal year.

Hurtado Miller reported that during his meeting with the 22 members of the IMF executive board he informed them of the measures that have been implemented by the government since 28 July 1990 to put the economy in order. He also said that IMF director-manager Camdessus noted the seriousness and dedication demonstrated by the Peruvian Government to rebuild the country's economy.

Sanchez Leaves for Rio Group Meeting in Caracas

PY2801162391 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Raul Sanchez Sotomayor has left for Caracas to participate in the special meeting of the foreign ministers of the Rio Group countries.

Before departing from Jorge Chaves Airport, Minister Sotomayor said that the possible effects of the Persian Gulf conflict in Latin America will be analyzed at that meeting and views on the development of events will be exchanged.

Minister Sotomayor added that the Rio Group foreign ministers will focus on the possible impact of the Persian Gulf war in the energy and economic fields, and will make recommendations to their governments based on the conclusions of these deliberations.

* Countersubversion, Human Rights Assessed

91WR0090A Lima CARETAS in Spanish 3 Dec 90 pp 26-31

[Text] More than 18,000 dead and economic losses of almost $20 billion—this is the balance after a decade of terror. Although it cannot be said that the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path—SL) has established territorial control, this does not mean that it has not made advances in recent years. Is Peru losing the war? In the following pages, CARETAS offers an analysis of the violence and the possible solutions to the problem. The new strategy of the FFAA [Armed Forces] for dealing with subversion is also discussed.

On Monday, 3 December, Abimael Guzman celebrated his 56th birthday. Ten years of his life have been devoted to sowing terror and anxiety in this country.

Throughout this whole period of destruction and crime, Guzman's followers have not won power, nor have they established the "Republic of the New Democracy." In other words, they are waging a struggle with no major achievements, since they have not established themselves in any part of the country, either in terms of territory or in the desires of the citizenry, and thus are relegated to the rearguard of history and of the people.

But the government, or rather, governments, have not won the war either. The battles won by the government have not made any definition possible—merely the maintenance of affairs in a worrisome status quo. What is happening, then? Has there perhaps been no strategy, no political will, or a lack of resources? These are indeed the most common criticisms made of the government.

Certainly, during the last two governments, and at least prior to the appointment of each new commanding general of the FFAA, vast antisubversive programs have been set forth. And under this government as well, there is now a new plan. Will the same old thing happen? This time, in fact, substantial differences can be seen. All of the earlier experience is being considered, and various aspects which were previously ignored stand out.

Background

A first plan of antisubversive struggle has been drafted within the Joint Command, and its implementation is expected at the beginning of the new government term, after 28 July 1990. It was presented to the presidential

candidates during the electoral campaign during their meetings with the Joint Command.

This plan will be based on winning over the population affected by violence, with greater emphasis being placed on the participation of the Armed Forces in the joint measures in support of this population sector. The use of intelligence personnel for infiltration and a campaign to resolve the most urgent problems will supplement this effort, which obviously must be accompanied by military strategy. Some of these measures have been tested in four communities, one in Lima and three in Ayacucho.

Major General Carlos Mauricio Agurto, for his part, was entrusted with the study of the problem by the present government, with the task of coordinating information and proposals in a kind of multisectorial group. He pursued his investigations for a month and a half, and subsequently reported his results and conclusions to President Alberto Fujimori and representatives of the Armed Forces.

Finally, Alberto Arciniegas Huby, one of antisubversive strategy planners, updated his plan for combating subversion, which had previously been included in a report to the CAEM [Advanced Military Studies Center].

All of this produced President Fujimori's proposal for addressing the problem in an integral fashion, with the appointment of a multisectorial committee for antisubversive struggle which will concern itself with the entire complex of actions and programs. This committee will be commanded on the national level, particularly in the emergency zones. There will be three of these, moreover: the central zone, with headquarters in Huancayo; the northeastern zone, and the Ayacucho zone. They will be commanded by three generals, as the highest authorities. The names of Oswaldo Hanque Velasco, who would remain in Huallaga; Luis Perez Documet (presently a colonel, with a promotion recommended), who would take command of the headquarters in Huancayo; and Hugo Martinez Aloja, who would go to Ayacucho, have already been mentioned.

Some individuals have also been discussed as candidates for the general command, but no decision has been made as yet because discussions are still continuing as to whether the appointment of a civilian authority would be acceptable, or whether there should be direct military command. The advantages of the alternative schemes are being debated.

The Strategy

The single command and its subdivisions will function with a master plan, based on the following notable points:

- It must be the basic objective of the Armed Forces, in connection with human rights (DDHH), to demonstrate that there is no desire to conceal any excesses which may be committed. At the same time, they must be capable, with the help of the rest of the population, the political groups, and the press—on the international level, as well—of publicizing the atrocities committed by the subversives.
- Any strategy must take into account the real scope of drug trafficking in the country, both because it threatens internal security and because of the economic support it provides to the subversives.
- It is fundamental that the people affected by subversion be made to understand that the FFAA are a part of the people. To this end, it is necessary to win the confidence of the people. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to win their support, and thus to defeat terrorism.
- Preference should be given, in each of the areas of struggle, to soldiers coming from these same areas. They will be best able to identify with their environment, and will defend it as their own. In addition, they will need less training and will survive better in the field than the terrorists, most of whom come from other places.
- The soldiers assigned to the emergency zones should be encouraged by placing emphasis on the virtues of the heroes, well-known or otherwise, who came from and have performed gloriously in these areas.
- The tendency to fortify countersubversive bases should be rectified, because without these efforts, the FFAA will be further separated from the people. It must be understood that weapons were issued for the defense of the people, and not so that the Armed Forces could defend themselves.
- Concerning the reports of FFAA actions in emergency zones, great care should be taken to ensure that the truth is told. Any excess of propaganda is counterproductive.
- Information obtained from the people should be encouraged, not only because they are the best-informed sources and because they are affected by the problems, but also because it makes them feel useful, a part of the struggle, and united with their Armed Forces.
- The primary objective in unconventional warfare, unlike conventional warfare, is not defeating enemy forces, but winning the support of the people, so that they are the ones to identify this enemy who hides his face. An error in identifying the enemy further separates the people from the Armed Forces, subsequently leading to defeat.
- Once the enemy is identified, a continuous and permanent offensive should be waged. If the subversive effort is based on a strategy of fighting and resisting (interpreting the latter as withdrawal from counterattack), a permanent offensive will eliminate the subversives.
- In order to gain control of the settlements, total authority over communication routes is essential, despite the danger inherent in patrolling or ensuring security by means of fixed posts. Both measures, if properly implemented, will make it difficult for the subversives to reach the settlements in search of support.
- Although surprise attacks on military bases or patrols

are difficult to prevent, it is essential to have an active strategy for immediate and effective response to these attacks.

- When logistic support is inadequate, which sometimes causes difficulties in the emergency zones, the resources of the people should not be used without the agreement of the people and their authorities. Actions involving plunder or theft by the members of the FFAA, apart from being prohibited, facilitate subversive manipulation.

Practical Action

It is obvious that the new antisubversion plan incorporates many of the recommendations of the counterinsurgency experts. One of the key factors is that impunity will cease to be the norm for the members of the Armed Forces. In other words, incidents such as the assassination of journalist Hugo Bustios, which was shelved "because it was not possible to identify those who were responsible," must not be repeated.

The document emphasizes the importance of truthful information about what is happening in an emergency zone. Nothing could be wiser. However, it must be said that it is the armed institutions themselves which have imposed limitations. Since 1986, journalists have been denied access to the regions of conflict.

As Ramon Magsaysay, who defeated the guerrilla forces in the Philippines, said, it is very important for the Armed Forces to win the confidence of the people. Otherwise, they will lack the valuable information which will lead to breaking up the guerrilla force. In Peru, as was the case then in the Philippines, the people fear the security forces, in some instances more than they fear the Sendero itself.

In addition to all of this, there are tremendous difficulties involved in combating subversion with soldiers who are unfamiliar with the activities in the area of combat, as the Francisco Lombardi film, "The Mouth of the Wolf" clearly shows.

Very often, settlement residents do not believe that all of the paraphernalia at the military bases is there to ensure the safety of their communities, but rather that of the barracks alone.

In short, the heart of the new strategy is the maximum possible strengthening of the link between the people and their Armed Forces. If this is achieved, an important step forward will have been taken in the antisubversive struggle.

Human Rights Statistics

The brutal assassination of PPC [Popular Christian Party] leader Javier Puiggros was followed by a series of worrisome and preposterous statements.

Luis Bedoya Reyes and a number of the leaders of the now disbanded Fredemo [Democratic Front] demanded a more forceful struggle against subversion, suggesting that the war against the Sendero was being lost because of the concern about respect for human rights. This idea was made concrete a few days later by a draft law proposed by Antero Flores Araoz, giving the executive branch extraordinary authority for a period of 90 days for the promulgation of the decrees deemed necessary for the antisubversive struggle.

Seemingly, the Fredemo gentlemen have forgotten that Peru has the sad distinction of being the country with the greatest number of "desaparecidos" [persons who have disappeared] than any other nation in the whole world.

According to figures from the Office of the Attorney General, there were 4,800 disappearances between 1980 and the present. Among those involved, only 1,000 have reappeared (almost all had been arrested by the security forces). Of the others, there has been no news at all. And thus far this year, there have been 327 disappearances.

It is a certainty that the principal violators of human rights are the Sendero and the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement], but this can never be a reason for failing to denounce the officers in the security forces and their subordinates who have committed abuses against the people. This is not solely a moral problem, because it is also important that institutions bearing responsibility for the antisubversive struggle should avoid losing their legitimacy. In addition, it should be noted that no antisubversive strategy will be successful if it lacks the support of the people. It will serve no purpose to have a better-trained Army with sophisticated weaponry if this does nothing but cause fear and distrust among the people.

Even the government statistics themselves reveal that there are strange circumstances with regard to human rights (such as respect for human life). For example, in the list of deaths which occurred in the last decade, the figure for the category entitled "presumed subversives" is 9,386.

Despite this presumed number of subversive casualties, the attack curve is on the rise. In other words, the number of terrorist actions is increasing every year, as compared with the preceding period. This means either that the Sendero has greater personnel strength than was presumed, or that those who died were innocent civilians who had nothing to do with the subversive forces.

But in addition to these casualties, the records show 7,732 civilian deaths, and 1,410 among the members of the security forces. A war where the highest rate of mortality can be found among the civilian population is a strange war indeed.

Finally, and removing the problem from its ethical context, DDHH violations have an economic cost. In fact, Peru does not qualify for military assistance from the government of the United States. Section 502 (b) of the Foreign Assistance Act provides that no government

may receive such aid if it "is involved in the consistent practice of massive internationally recognized violations of human rights."

The most recent U.S. State Department report on the DDHH situation (1989) says: "The abuses of human rights committed by government security forces also increased in 1989, although it became ever more difficult to pursue investigations because the military commanders restricted access to the emergency zones. There were reliable reports of summary executions, arbitrary arrests, and the frequent use of torture by the police and the Armed Forces. The subsequent trials of military personnel accused of violations of human rights move slowly or simply do not move at all."

[The chart entitled "Social Cost of the War According to the Bernales Commission" [for a graph not reproduced] is captioned as follows: "Sendero Luminoso continues to be a threat to the country. The actions of the MRTA are far fewer than those of the SL."]

[A subsequent chart entitled, "Comparison of the Number of Sendero and MRTA Actions" [for a graph not reproduced] is captioned as follows: "Despite the casualties suffered, the number of actions has continued to increase year after year. These figures indicate that DDHH does not constitute the reason the war is being lost."]

[The chart entitled, "Individuals Who Have Disappeared" [for a chart not reproduced] is captioned as follows: "The greatest numbers of persons disappeared in 1984 and 1989 [as published]. During those years, the index of civilian and subversive deaths was also high."]

*** Experts Comment on Countersubversion Strategy**

* Military Courts Discussed

91WR0091A Lima EXPRESO in Spanish
14 Dec 90 p 6

[Interview with journalist Gustavo Gorriti by Pedro Salinas; place and date not given—first paragraph is EXPRESO introduction]

[Text] EXPRESO interviewed Gustavo Gorriti, the author of "Sendero: The History of the Age-Old War in Peru," on the controversial subject of the military courts.

[Salinas] What is your opinion of President Fujimori's proposal that the Constitution be amended so that military courts can be used to try crimes of terrorism?

[Gorriti] I believe that President Fujimori's proposal is a mistake, a move in the wrong direction. This initiative, should it be successful, would cause significant erosion of the democratic procedural system. With regard to this aspect, I would like to quote Robert Thompson: 'Trials held in camera, martial law, and military courts can never be justified satisfactorily. They constitute a tacit admission that the government which is responsible has collapsed.'

[Salinas] You urge the establishment of special courts with properly trained judges, citing the use of Italian judges in the battle against the Red Brigades as an example (EXPRESO, 11 November 1990). How could this model be adapted to the Peruvian situation?

[Gorriti] What must be abstracted from this model, basically, is the need for specialized judges. This means not only operational preparations, but prior training designed to develop the ability to process complex and organized crimes properly. The judges will need prior training in order to be able to handle the multiple interrelated elements in the subversive actions on which they are required to rule. It is obvious that the traditional courts have neither the capacity, nor the training, nor the proper organization for carrying out this task.

[Salinas] Nor are their judges well-paid or properly protected.

[Gorriti] That is true. This must be added to what was said previously.

[Salinas] Some people believe that having the magistrates wear hoods during the trial process would be a security measure for them.

[Gorriti] The proposal that the judges be hooded is a very bad one. One of the central goals in a democratic doctrine of internal defense should be precisely to consolidate the democratic system. And when it comes to administering justice, this means appearing openly. On the other hand, the possibility of establishing an exclusive civil jurisdiction devoted exclusively to the handling of cases of subversion should be studied.

[Salinas] The problem of slowness in the administration of justice brings up the obvious lack of a legal framework adapted to the domestic war situation, does it not?

[Gorriti] Yes.

[Salinas] And on the other hand, it reveals the lack of a political will to deal with the problem of subversion, does it not?

[Gorriti] Yes.

[Salinas] This is the question, then. Why do you believe that the government still has not taken into account the situation of the domestic war we are experiencing. What must happen before the government assumes political leadership of the war, once and for all?

[Gorriti] What must happen is a process of apprenticeship.

[Salinas] But this has been under way for more than ten years now.

[Gorriti] Regrettably, that is true. And in addition, this apprenticeship requires an uncommon ability. The fact

is that this is a complex phenomenon, the strategic magnitude of which is not easily seen from its tactical manifestations. And the solution often requires the use of paradoxical measures which are the opposite of our instinctive responses.

* Gorriti Proposes Strategy

91WR0091B Lima CARETAS in Spanish
3 Dec 90 pp 28-29

[Text] Gustavo Gorriti, the author of "Sendero: The History of the Age-Old War in Peru" (Apoyo publishing house, 1990), who served as the security affairs editor for CARETAS for six years and is an astute investigator of the subversive phenomenon, has some very specific ideas about the general strategy which should be pursued by the country in ordere to defeat the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path—SL).

- The effort should be viewed within the context of "internal defense," rather than "counterinsurgency," because the latter term is linked with a whole series of negative experiences (basically, during the Vietnam War), and because it implies a reactive attitude. "Internal defense" connotes a positive attitude.
- The government should declare a state of "internal warfare," and society should recognize that the fate of the country is at stake, and that defeating the Senderist movement is an absolute priority for the country, to which everything must be subordinated.

(This does not mean giving the members of the Sendero the status of international belligerents. The Geneva Convention provides for cases of domestic war and defines their characteristics. For the time being, the Sendero does not openly control any part of the national territory, and in any case, its methods of struggle would classify its members not as "prisoners," but as "war criminals.")

The need to declare a state of internal war, with everything that this entails, stems from the characteristics of the challenge. Unlike the rest of the Latin American nations which have experienced armed rebellion, the one carried out by the SL in Peru is based on the Maoist doctrine of "prolonged war." It is a unique case, with a different methodology.

The Senderist rebellion can be defined, with some license, as a basically administrative insurrection in which the measures of a military nature (terrorism, guerrilla warfare, sabotage) and those of a political nature (indoctrination, staffing of various organizations under the control of the party) are dictated by the central intent to wrest control of the territory and settlements away from the Peruvian state gradually, to eliminate its presence, and to replace it with its own government organs. This countergovernment collects taxes, recruits people, administers justice, and is seeking to proceed from clandestinity or semi-clandestinity, in certain zones, to generalized and open control.

An internal defense doctrine should have two central objectives:

1) To reconquer the areas and settlements under the control of the Sendero. Doing this presumes the destruction of the network of organizations and systems of open, clandestine, and semi-clandestine control which serve the Senderist movement. It is essential to destroy not only its armed groups, but also its intelligence networks and the organizations such as the Socorro Rojo [Red Aid] and the MOTC [Movement of Class Workers and Laborers]. But this necessary action should not be confused with doing away with the members of the Sendero. A subversive who has surrendered or recanted can be much more valuable than a dead Senderist.

2) To maintain, perfect, and consolidate the democratic system during the war. If the goal of the Sendero is to move toward a closed and totalitarian society, the key goal of the government must be to move toward a more satisfactory open society. This war, then, is one of a political-administrative nature, in which military and police measures serve a consistent end. Within this context, respect for human rights and rejection of brutal and indiscriminate methods are essential.

Within the doctrine of internal defense, the two most important schools of thought concerning methods are: the one inspired by the so-called French "revolutionary war," and the one based on the British experience, particularly in Malaya.

The "revolutionary war" methodology is basically incompatible with the democratic system. Various democracies which have used it have met with defeat, and France failed with it, both in Algeria and on its own territory.

The Peruvian strategy should be based on the British experience in Malaya, or that of Ramon Magsaysay in the Philippines, or even that of Romulo Betancourt in Venezuela, where, although the rebellion was not Maoist, a weak democracy was able to defend itself without sacrificing its democratic nature.

Peru should seek the assistance of Sir Robert Thompson (see CARETAS No 935), an oustanding personality in Malaya, who at 75 years of age appears strong and clear-thinking. Peru should also consult General Frank Kitson, who retired a short time ago from the British Army; C.C. Too, a retired psychological warfare expert who lives in Kuala Lumpur; and all of the Malayan experts in general, whose efforts ceased to be needed following the surrender of Ching Pen last year.

And finally, a new offensive against the Sendero should be launched openly and forcefully. A plebiscite, for example, would be a good idea, to ask the people if they authorize their leaders to carry out all of the actions needed, including legal changes, to make it possible to eliminate the threat. (De Gaulle organized a plebiscite with great success; Uruguay did so with regard to the amnesty law; and in the United States, this measure is in

permanent use.) It is a matter of dramatically launching the defense of democratic legitimacy against totalitarian brutality.

* 'Global' Strategy Needed

91WR0091C Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 26 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] Raul Gonzalez, a student of the subversive phenomenon, warned yesterday that the series of terrorist attack in recent weeks threatens the stability of the political system in the country. He emphasized that in view of this situation, the government should pursue a global strategy involving not only military and police aspects, but measures of a civil nature as well.

In an interview during the political program "Contra Punto" [Counterpoint], this sociologist commented on a certain inclination on the part of the government to hold back on stabilization of the political system. He said that in so doing, it has let very important moments pass, during which the armed rebel groups were experiencing a period of weakness.

"Now, for certain reasons, these groups are beginning to reorganize and to gain new impetus, and this is dangerous, not because they are developing, but because this may lead us into very difficult circumstances," he explained.

Gonzalez said at another point that it is necessary for the government to step up its efforts to achieve national political stability. He indicated that these efforts do not appear to have advanced as rapidly as those designed to ensure economic stability.

"Both goals must be sought on a parallel basis, because we have already seen how subversive actions can damage the country's political system," he commented.

He went on to discuss the importance of participation by the citizens in the struggle against the terrorist phenomenon. He expressed the belief that "this is something which requires a response involving more than a strategy of just a police or military type."

"The time has come to understand that not just a police or military strategy, but a total one, instead, must be pursued. There must be a global strategy which leads the population to understand that the search for a solution to this problem is the business of all of us, and this strategy must be provided by the Government Palace," he emphasized.

Uruguay

Ministry Denies 'Iraqi Terrorist Cell' Presence

PY2801221091 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 10

[Text] Responding to a report published in the Argentine newspaper AMBITO FINANCIERO, high-ranking Defense Ministry sources have denied the existence of an Iraqi terrorist cell in Montevideo.

The subject came up last night when this newspaper began circulating in Montevideo. Early yesterday morning, an aide to Defense Minister Mariano Brito handed a copy of the article to the minister.

Under the headline "Worrisome," AMBITO FINANCIERO published a front-page article stating that there has been concern in Montevideo since 15 January over the "discovery of an alleged terrorist cell of Iraqi origin, with connections in Brazil, where it has its source of supply."

"There will be a problem when these terrorists attempt to carry out some kind of subversive attack in either Uruguay or Argentina," the newspaper stated.

The Defense Ministry announced during a 15 January news conference that it had adopted some measures in view of possible terrorist attacks in Uruguay.

After analyzing the report with his aides, Brito consulted each of his intelligence services and there was only one response: "There is no information concerning any Iraqi terrorist group."

The Argentine newspaper reported that civilian and military intelligence organizations are concentrating their efforts "on learning the cell's actual level of activity and development."

After evaluating the situation and going over a lot of information, Brito decided not to make any public statement, but not with the purpose of "minimizing" the report published in the Argentine newspaper. [sentence as published]

The Defense Ministry finally decided to issue a report through a spokesman, who said the following: "In view of some reports that circulated on the morning of 16 January in Buenos Aires regarding the possible presence of international terrorist cells in our country, we remind the population that the defense minister has informed the public that he has adopted additional measures at all levels and in all necessary areas to guarantee the people's safety."

The spokesman categorically added: "This ministry does not accept the newspaper report as true."

According to information that LA HORA POPULAR received from credible sources, the AMBITO FINANCIERO report was the result of some Mar del Plata hotel businessmen's desire to somehow affect the strong influx of Argentine tourists into Uruguay due to the low exchange rate between the two countries.

This information was obtained from Uruguayan tourism circles. It is not strange that such a report would have sprung up in Argentina to slow the exodus of Argentine tourists to Uruguay.

'Alleged' Palestinian Group Releases Communique

PY2801230491 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 17 Jan 91 p 10

[Excerpt] An alleged Palestine organization operating in our country under the name "Cuarto Menguante" [Half Moon], an allusion to the Islamic half moon symbol, has released a harsh communique supporting Iraq and condemning the neutrality of the Latin American leftist forces.

The communique states that a lack of information and ignorance of the Islamic way of thinking is being used to denigrate Husayn. The communique labels the occupation of Kuwait as "the liberation of a rich Arab territory from the pawns of imperialism" and calls it a part of the struggle for the defense of oil resources. [passage omitted]

Lacalle, Argentina's Menem Discuss Oil Supply

PY2801144591 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0952 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Jan (TELAM) — Presidential Spokesman Humberto Toledo has reported that Argentine President Carlos Menem and Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle discussed the Uruguayan Round of GATT talks and the vicissitudes of the Persian Gulf war, topics on which both countries agree.

Toledo told TELAM that Menem and Lacalle met on 27 January for one hour at the official Uruguayan presidential residence in Punta del Este and that the possible supply of oil to Uruguay, if needed, was discussed.

According to the spokesman, Lacalle explained to Menem that Uruguay's supply of oil could be threatened if the Gulf war continues. The possibility of Argentina increasing the amount of oil it normally sells to Uruguay was thus discussed.

Toledo indicated that Menem told his Uruguayan counterpart that if Uruguay feels threatened by the crisis, Argentina can increase the amount of oil that it sells to Uruguay.

He commented that during the meeting Lacalle stated that Uruguay has a 180-day supply of oil, normal for countries that import oil.

The spokesman also stated that integration projects were also discussed and that the two presidents agreed to increase the integration process.

After their meeting, Menem and Lacalle went to a private residence for lunch. This was the Argentine president's only official activity during the day.

Finally, Toledo indicated that Menem will return to the federal capital today after breakfasting with his aides. Beside the presidential spokesman, State Intelligence Secretary Hugo Anzorregui and Argentine Ambassador to Uruguay Benito Llambi are accompanying Menem.

Venezuela

* Bush Visit Considered Step in Right Direction

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[Commentary by Social Christian Party Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez]

[Text] President Bush' recent visit to Venezuela and other nations in the area was positive and stimulating in the extreme. One must recall that the American President's trip fits into a broad, complex framework relating to recent events that have changed the shape of contemporary international relations.

Actually, the world has already clearly become multipolar. The United States and the Soviet Union definitely continue to be the two military superpowers, but under conditions far different from those prevailing during the cold war. Military might has declined as an instrument of action for promoting nations' interests. In our time, politics, diplomacy, and economics have regained their potential for creativity and their relevance in the definition of courses of world progress and balance. As a result, we contemplate the formation of major blocs of economic development and commercial trade in terms of which the future panorama will be shaped and current realities are in fact emerging.

With all its unquestioned internal strength, not even the United States is aloof from such changes. The strength of the new Europe and the vigor of Asian countries in the Pacific Basin outline a horizon of unequivocal, tangible challenges to which we must respond: Whence the process now uniting the economies of Canada and Mexico with that of the United States with such intensity. Whence also the transcendental meaning of the "Initiative of the Americas" proposed by President Bush, an imaginative formula that we Latin American nations must take up with courage and vision. It is necessary, unavoidable, and crucial to look far ahead, leaving aside the myths and complexes of the past in relations with Washington. Seriously and systematically—bilaterally and multilaterally—with dignity and clear goals, Venezuela must become the spearhead of a process of creative redefinition of hemispheric relations in four key fields:

- commercial: promoting the realization of the Initiative of the Americas and generating simultaneous bilateral and multilateral changes aimed at lowering trade barriers, promoting investment, and resolutely confronting the challenge of growing poverty in the Latin American region;
- energy: through the promotion and formulation of a policy of energy development for the hemisphere that will reduce the strategic vulnerabilities of all, while guaranteeing stable markets and prices for producers;
- political: emphasizing the common commitment to defend an American continent where freedom, democracy, and human rights prevail within a context of economic prosperity and common welfare; and

- cultural and technological: through closer unity and increased trade with mutual benefits for all our nations.

The circumstances are particularly favorable for Venezuela in its current relations with the United States. Our oil has renewed strategic worth in Washington's eyes and no matter what direction the crisis in the Persian Gulf takes, the political instability and volatility of the area will encourage the United States to secure a reliable supply. We must take advantage of this situation in a positive way, with complete awareness of our national interests and a clear global vision concerning the need to overcome the narrow group interests of the old days. If we do not proceed with imagination, we Latin Americans run the risk of lagging behind forever in a world of accelerated change that daily rocks our traditional structures and old certainties.

For all of these reasons, I repeat my conviction that President Bush's visit is a step in the right direction. Naturally, one cannot expect miracles overnight. There are many difficulties and obstacles and great resentment born of decades of conflicts in relations between the United States and Latin America. Things change, however, and dogmatic attitudes have no place in a situation undergoing rapid transformation. For Venezuelans, relations with the United States are a concrete reality, a challenge, and an opportunity. The great nation to the north has been, is, and will in the foreseeable future continue to be our main trading partner and the central axis of a geopolitical framework of fundamental importance to our international projections. In the past, American policy toward the region has occasionally left a great deal to be desired. Nevertheless, transformations now underway on the world scene are opening up unheard-of possibilities enabling a country like ours and Latin America as a whole to redefine our relations with the American colossus on new and more fertile foundations. We must be united if we are to bargain with success and we must be motivated by a sense of urgency.